NEWS / A6

Inquirer.net, Yahoo! team up for video service on Freedom Day

SPORTS / A28

Spurs halfway to NBA crown, take 2-0 lead over Cavaliers

NEWS / A2

Maguindanao teachers fear for lives after killing

SPORTS / A27

Nadal wins 3rd French Open over Federer

DEEP IN THOUGHT Assessing graduates' (above) technical competencies at the National University in Manila as the reigns of last year's batch are handed (figure).

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Tuesday, June 12, 2007 44 Sections / Vol. 22 / No. 134 P18 www.inquirer.net

US spy plane, Navy join search for priest

By John S. Alipala and Clarissa O. Arcodia

A US SPY PLANE ACCOMPANIES THE ITALIAN...
the Philippine Navy conducted simultaneous air-...
and troops launched in the Zamboanga Peninsula in search of an Italian priest whose...
helicopter Sunday.
Police said a splinter group of the Moro Is...

US SPY PLANE, A2

Maguindanao CoCs stolen, says Bedol

Election inspectors no-show at hearing

By Nikko Dizon and Jocelyn R. Uy

THE ELECTION INSPECTORS and the winning local candidates had been summoned to appear at the Commission on Elections, but no one showed up.

And, in a bid to further test the patience of the Comelec, the municipal canvassing of votes in Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao, the lone municipality where the administration senatorial candidates had scored a 12,000 sweep in Maguindanao, were missing.

The men at the center of it all—provincial election supervisor Lintang Bedol—claimed the vote-tallied final forms at dawn.

Faced with these developments, the Comelec en banc yesterday postponed to Friday its hearing on whether or not to declare a failure of election in the province.

Such a declaration may lead to new elections in Maguindanao.

Thus, the fate of three men napping for the last two Senate seats following the May 14 elections—the

MAGUINDANAO, A4

HOBBLED BY MEDIA Maguindanao election supervisor Lintang Bedol surfaces at the Commission on Elections office in Manila during a scheduled news session and is immediately surrounded by reporters.

He hates being called 'second Garci'

By Jocelyn R. Uy and Nikko Dizon

AT ONE POINT IN HIS LIFE, LINTANG Bedol said he had to spend his own money for a bulletproof car and for—did we hear it right?—around his house's security and bodyguards.

That was the kind of danger the controversial Maguindanao election supervisor said he experienced while serving in an area that had become a hotbed of election controversies.

Some of his clients, made during a heartrending interview with reporters yesterday, could challenge men's credulity.

Bedol appeared before the Commission on Elections yesterday after he failed to show up at last week's hearing on questionable vote tallies that could seal the fate of opposition and administration candidates fighting for the last two Senate slots.

Doubts about the authenticity of the vote tallies arose after several school teachers told news blogs and media groups of how gunmen had filled out the ballots themselves, or forced teachers to fill them out, under the name of President Macapagal-Arroyo's senatorial candi-

DEBATES, A4

Leakage row reunites 13,000 nursing grads

By Leila B. Salaverria and Jeremaiah Aning

THEY ARE GLAD THE RESULTS OF QUESTIONS of the nursing licensure exam is over, but the nursing graduates affected by the leakage controversy that tainted the June 2006 exam are not burning sighs of relief just yet as they await the results that would determine their future.

At least three nursing graduates take to task Tom Uli and V yesterday expressed suspicion that the questions covered topics that did not fall under the bar exam—antepartum, Medical-Surgical Nursing and Psychiatric Nursing, respectively.

"The exam was difficult. We were surprised at some of the questions because they dealt with other topics like research," said a female

LEAKAGE, A2

Tech-voc tops agenda of DepEd

By Jerry E. Esplanada

(Last of two parts)

FROM DAY ONE, EDUCATION SECRETARY Jesli A. Lapus has been passionate about looking into what he calls the "skills-and-jobs mismatch" in the local labor market.

SPECIAL REPORT

"The sad reality is that despite the growing demand for skilled workers in various technical and vocational-technical fields, many Filipino youths unemployed. Regrettably, a lot of these young unemployed Filipinos have college degrees—they have college diplomas in areas that have no employment value," Lapus

DEPED, A14

GMA confers Golden Heart Order on Campbell

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo congratulates Carl Beck, US Peace Corps country director, after he received a certificate and medal (celebrated at the agency which was conferred the Order of the Golden Heart to Philippines), John Campbell, a Peace Corps volunteer who was killed in April while on a mountain trek. Campbell received the same award. US Ambassador Kristie Kenney (center) was among the guests at the ceremony.

By Michael Lim Ubac

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO YESTERDAY posthumously conferred the Order of the Golden Heart with the rank of officer on US Peace Corps volunteer John Campbell, who was brutally killed while on a mountain trek last April. Before the conferment of an even greater honor as a martyr.

"It was an honor bestowed on John Campbell for his dedicated service to the Philippines," Arroyo said, as fellow volunteers who received the award in behalf, said him.

Mr. Arroyo also conferred on the Peace Corps, represented by its country director Carl Beck, the Order of the Golden Heart with the rank of Grand Cross.

The Order of the Golden Heart award was established in 1994. It is given to government officials and civilians, including foreigners, who have helped improve the plight of impoverished Filipinos.

Created by the US Congress, the Peace Corps

GMA, A6

CBCP: Let's honor poll heroes, too

By Jerome Aning

HONOR THE UNSUNG HEROES—THE teachers and poll watchdog volunteers who served in the recent midterm elections, as well as the victims of vote-related killings and intimidation—the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines president and San Jacinto-Pangasinan Archbishop Angel Lagdameo made from honoring the heroes who helped the country attain successful 109 years ago, he urged Filipinos to remember the sufferers' heroes.

"In the attempt to discredit some questionable and popular personalities as icons of the hero's choice, let us not lose sight of the innumerable and unnamed heroes of our country's history," Lagdameo said yesterday in a statement reflecting on the Decree of today's Independence Day celebration. "Bahaylan 2007: Bayan, Bayani, Bayanihan."

The prelate cited the volunteers of the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting, the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections, and the public school teachers "who, despite odds, difficulties, obstacles, frustrations and threats, defended the sacredness of the ballot against those dishonesting groups."

Lagdameo added: "In the midst of cen-

CBCP, A16

Defy work holiday, Aguinaldo heirs urge

BAGUIO CITY—DON'T WORK TODAY, September 12, the heirs of Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo have asked Filipinos to observe it as presidential proclamation that made today a working holiday for the first time in Philippine history.

Emilio Aguinaldo Family III, great-grand

DEFY, A14

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WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

More tutors fear for lives after whistle-blower's slay

By Charlie C. Señas
Inquirer Mindanao

CUYAPAO CITY—TEACHERS IN Pagsibangan town now fear for their lives following the killing of a retired school supervisor who exposed alleged election irregularities in Pagsibangan town in Maguindanao.

"Some of them are hesitant to continue the fight, but we assured them of our unwavering support," said former Maguindanao Gov. Hurodin Mitalam.

Mitalam said the teachers expressed their fears during the funeral of retired Maguindanao school supervisor Rhen Sinsuelang, who was shot dead Saturday night in Pikit, North Cotabato.

The former governor has sought the help of the police and military in ensuring the safety of teachers and other election workers.

Sinsuelang, 66, sustained two gunshot wounds in the head and body, but police claimed he may have recovered from eight shells fired at a 4D cab, police said.

Sinsuelang was a resource resident of Pikit following threats on his life that forced him to move from nearby Pagalungan in Maguindanao. He had exposed the alleged fraudulent manner run in the businessmen where the provincial Mamasapano and Shariff political dynasties are at loggerheads.

Mitalam, an opposition stalwart, had accused his rival, Gov. Mamasapano, who was with the administration, of manipulating the election and intimidating voters. Mamasapano was proclaimed the winner by the municipal board of canvassers although 26 ballot boxes containing election returns from seven villages had yet to be canvassed.

About 7,000 voters from Pagsibangan, which has more than 30,000 registered voters, had yet to be canvassed. Nevertheless, its election officer Elias Gaerlan, who canvassed missing, officially declared Mamasapano the winner.

The Philippine National Police has ordered Maguindanao police to immediately arrest suspects.

"We should not allow the killings to go on. The suspects should be arrested," PNP Director General Oscar Calderon told the Inquirer yesterday in a phone interview.

Calderon said he directed the commander of Region XII, Chief Supt. Fernando Gregan, to submit an investigation report on the incident to Camp Crame.

Meanwhile, the Commission on Elections has condemned the murder of Sinsuelang and has assured poll-based witnesses that they would be provided security.

As a press briefing yesterday Comelec spokesperson Jayne Jimenez said that whatever Task Force Maguindanao would uncover would be "partly due to (Sinsuelang's) courage."

Jimenez said Comelec Commissioner Mendiorro Ferrer, who heads the task force, assured poll-based witnesses that they would be given protection.

Lawyer Carlos Medina of the Legal Network for Shariff Election Lawyer said the Catholic Shariff bases itself for the school of teachers to assume the new dangerous role of election officer in case a special election is called in Maguindanao.

Herminia de Villa, chair of the Shariff Retired Council for Responsible Voting, said Sinsuelang's murder presents serious problems.

"There is the fear factor in (other) right now," she said. "But fear is ultimately a given reality in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao). This means we will have to work double hard in mobilizing volunteers. It would be harder to organize at this point."

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Cotabato, which has jurisdiction over Maguindanao, has also condemned the Sinsuelang slay.

"We are shocked and we can't help but juxtapose the murderous (that) his death may be obvious or [not]," said Jose Ingalinio, auxiliary bishop of the archdiocese of Cotabato, in an interview over church-owned station Radio Veritas. With reports from Akiah Pago, Nikko Dizon, Jocelyn R. Ch, Cathy Rosauro and Jerome Aning

AFP surveying troops on Trillanes victory

By Christina G. Asendulos

MALACAÑANG PALACE: the first time a situation where a rebel former officer was very likely to be proclaimed a senator, the military has been surveying its officers and men to learn their sentiments on the possibility.

The survey of the rank-and-file is being done Army Navy Lt. Antonio Trillanes' probable elevation to being considered by the senate. Forces of the Philippine Civil Relations Service (AFP-CRS) and was a "mere assessment" for the AFP leadership "to find out what was happening before [in order] to be able to give an appropriate response," AFP administration chief Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro said yesterday.

"The real intent of the survey is to find out the sentiments of the soldiers so that we can identify what efforts the AFP leadership should (exert) to educate [them]," Bacarro said separately.

He said the military wanted to find out, for instance, if there were soldiers who did not agree that Trillanes—who is facing mutiny charges in both civilian and military courts in connection with the 2003 Oakwood mutiny—should sit in the Senate.

"We would like [to know] what effect it has [should senator-elect] to [the] group of soldiers would have a disturbing reaction on [Trillanes going to the Senate]—so that we could target those and tell them the people gave him a mandate," Bacarro said.

This, too, he said, was to "remove rumblings within the organization."

Bacarro reiterated the military's position that winning or the election "will not in any way extinguish (Trillanes')... liabilities," and mining him regain that the military have custody over him.

Asked if a Trillanes victory would pose a problem for the military, Bacarro said the AFP was not at all bothered by the possibility.

"Actually (Trillanes) could be an ally he can even be an ally," Bacarro said, pointing out that having been an officer, Trillanes would know the morale of the soldiers and the AFP and could fill them through legislation.

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Some crew, passengers not on ship's manifest

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr. and Allison W. Lopez

THE FIRE WHICH RAZED A PASSENGER ferry killing at least five passengers began in a store room where no boxes made of combustible materials were kept, the Philippine Coast Guard said yesterday.

"Initial reports from survivors and that thick black smoke was seen coming from engine bed No. 2, which was filled with rice boxes made of styrofoam, PCG spokesperson Lt. Commander Jorge Arcangel said in a radio interview.

The Coast Guard, however, said it was not ruling out any possibility since the investigation had just started.

Bound for Palawan, the MV Catalina B caught fire off Mindoro early Sunday morning, while its passengers were sailing.

The PCG has created a Special Board of Marine Inquiry to determine what caused the fire.

Capt. Rodolfo Isorena, PCG district commander for Southern Tagalog, who will head the investigating committee, said the probe will start this morning.

In a report yesterday, 922 out of 254 passengers and 28 crew members were rescued, a higher figure than the 2,16 passengers and 22 crew members listed on the ship's manifest.

"But it is evident. It appears that there were several unmanifested passengers," Cornia said.

The process were killed in the fire Jun Rapsa, 47; Virgilio Sual, 62; Jhon Hapalay, 40; Abdy Valenzuela, 30 and a girl who remained unidentified.

The injured passengers remained under observation at the Philippine General Hospital on Taft Avenue, Manila, while 401 others who were admitted had been released, according to Dr. Michael Ilo, PGH spokesperson.

Released from the hospital yesterday were Belen Oreagas, 75; Cecilia Lagonoy, 38; Gilda Lagonoy, 9; Hermione Jo Ja Tayag, 10; Rommel dela Tayag, 11, and Jayde de la Tayag.

Two other victims, a 5-year-old boy and a 70-year-old woman, would remain special and been treatment in the hospital's burn unit. The boy suffered 5-percent burns on his face, while the woman had 60 percent burns on her face and left hand. She died.

Meanwhile, 18-year-old twins John and Angelo Brigoles, told the hospital on Sunday heart they survived the fire but lost their mother, Nora Brigoles, who drowned after jumping into the sea without a life jacket.

"Nakikita ko sa aking mga mga mata sa pang-hatong habang nasa ilalim ng tubig. Ang pagkatay ko ng hindi na lang ay a mandayan sa likuhan, hinahanap ko ang isang ilalim ng tubig. Ang pagkatay ko ng hindi na lang ay a mandayan sa likuhan, hinahanap ko ang isang ilalim ng tubig," said Angelo, crying.

Another Huey figures in accident

By Tarra Quismundo

A DAY AFTER THE MILITARY RECEIVED 10 refurbished helicopters from the United States, the Philippine Air Force grounded its fleet of 85 UH-1H choppers as another one made a troubled landing at an elevation of 7,000 feet in Mt. Province on Sunday.

Two soldiers were injured when the Huey, carrying nine passengers, crash-landed while making its descent at around 11:30 a.m. in Sitio Ampusongan, Barangay Capinpin, Bauko, Mt. Province, the regional police.

Brig. Gen. Arthur Macanda, commander of the 203th Tactical Helicopter Wing, said strong winds may have buffeted the chopper as the pilot maneuvered to land on a cleared point near the camp of the 503rd Army Brigade.

Employed from its base in Benin Sur, the brigade has been encamped there to conduct anti-insurgency operations.

"It was already maneuvering landing and was about for four feet from the ground when it passed by the right, and the tail rotor was severed in little. Because the area was sloping, the helicopter slid and rolled down," Macanda said.

"I just don't know how far it rolled down, but it rolled not just once. When it finally stopped, it rested on its right side," Macanda told the incident to photo yesterday.

The chopper, among the six engage units based at the military's Northern Luzon Command in Tarlac, was then on a resupply mission to the 503rd when the incident happened, Macanda said.

The incident was the third involving Huey in two months. On April 28, a Huey crashed onto a road in Lupa-Cago, Cebu, killing two soldiers and seven civilians. Another chopper suffered minor flooding surrounded in Libon, Cebu, during a training flight on May 22.

All eleven passengers spent the night on Sunday's accident site before they were rescued at around 7:30 a.m. yesterday by a helicopter from PAF's 505th Search and Rescue Group.

A recovery team has been sent to the area to see whether the ill-fated chopper, or at least part of it, could be recovered for investigation.

Macanda said the grounding of the PAF's roughly 85 choppers would be lifted as soon as investigation clears the aircraft to the service.

4 new foreign ambassadors pay respects to GMA

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO accepted yesterday the credentials of four new ambassadors to the Philippines to separate ceremonies at Malacañang.

Ambassador Armando Mora of the Dominican Republic of Timor-Leste was first to present his credentials to the President at Rizal Hall.

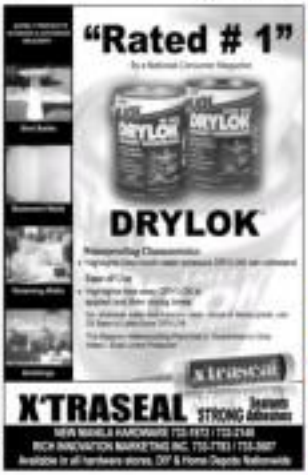
Mora attended to Ms Ivacio Pereira Jose Ramos-Horta's appreciation for the support the Philippines has been giving Timor Leste since it gained independence from Indonesia in 2002.

Three other nonresident ambassadors also presented their credentials.

They were Ambassador Shri Mallikarjun Rangaiyya of Rwanda who is based in Beijing, China; Hungarian Ambassador Mihaly Illes who is based in Jakarta, Indonesia, and Colombian Ambassador Alejandro Bermudez who is based in Seoul, South Korea.

The envoys on separate but respective courtesy calls by Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita.

President Arroyo, for her part, said she looked forward to fruitful and mutually supporting relations between the Philippines and the ambassadors' respective countries.



Maguindanao CoCs stolen, says Lintang Bedol

Kanlaon Opposition's Antonio Trillanes IV and Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III, and Team Unity's Juan Miguel Zubiri—still hung in the balance, namely cascade after the following.

"Since there are a lot of places where there is a possibility of (canvass) vibration being held, we have to hold off on any announcements of that nature for the moment," Jaime Bautista, Comelec spokesperson, said in a press briefing when asked if Trillanes, who was in 13th place, could be proclaimed soon.

Partial tallies from Bicolan tabulated canvassers enabled the 10th-placer Zubiri to move to within 111,497 votes of the 12th-place Pimentel.

Trillanes led Zubiri by 395,638 votes.

Only senators from the towns of Ambos and Ivanhoe were not included in the Bautista-led announcement of returns in those towns had just been completed.

As of yesterday, the Comelec's official tally had Trillanes at 13th with 11,893,462 votes, followed by Pimentel at 12th with 11,889,202, and Zubiri at 13th with 11,887,825.

Bedol appeared before Commissioner Rowena Bautista-Bareng of Task Force Maguindanao, as part of its investigation into alleged poll fraud.

Bedol told Bareng the municipal CoCs had gone missing.

Earlier, Bedol told reporters the municipal CoCs were stolen from the Comelec office at the provincial capitol in Shariff Aguak on May 29, two days after he appeared before the National Board of Canvassers to explain the controversial vote counts in the province.

'Wet run'

Bedol said the municipal tallies had already been prepared to be sent to Manila for the incorporating of the results when they were missing.

"Somebody got ahead. There was no forcible entry because the office was left open," he said in English and Filipino.

Bedol said he was in Shariff Kabunsuan on the afternoon the tallies were found to be missing. He said he ordered an investigation but it has yielded no concrete results.

He said he presented the municipal tallies every midnight while there was an impromptu rally by local candidates at the provincial capitol.

The municipal CoCs were the basis for "source documents" for the provincial CoC that showed a Team Unity sweep.

Bautista-Bareng remarked that candidates' canvass of their own votes—which Bedol said were not reflected in the provincial tally which Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Jr. himself described as "statistically improbable."

The provincial board of canvassers, chaired by Bedol, had tabulated the results in the municipal tallies in come up with the results reflected in the provincial CoC.

Crucial tallies

The missing municipal tallies would have also been the basis for a resolution of the Maguindanao voters by a special board of canvassers created by the Comelec.

Bedol also appeared at a Comelec en banc hearing after the poll body threatened to arrest him if he continued to ignore orders to appear.

Abalos asked Bedol why he failed to submit a written explanation on the controversial Maguindanao vote results despite summonses for him to appear on May 30.

"I didn't have time to prepare," Bedol replied.

The hearing sought to determine if a failure of elections should be declared in Maguindanao, where armed men allegedly filled out ballots with the names of TU candidates.

Lawyers for the 60 candidates contested the Comelec's plan to declare a failure of elections and, consequently, hold special elections.

Tallies were manufactured

The lawyers said they believed that elections took place in Maguindanao, except that the results had been manufactured.

"The fraud is in the ministerial canvassing of the provincial CoC. We seek a total nullification (of the Maguindanao tally from the national canvass). The possibility of disenfranchisement is a sentence," Leila de Lima, lawyer of Senatorial-slate bets Sonny Cayetano, told the hearing.

De Lima said that only after a certified petition had been filed could the Comelec decide on declaring a failure of elections.

Until now, De Lima said, there has been no such petition.

Commissioner Florentino Tuason asserted that the poll body was gathering facts from the local level, which was why he is waiting for all municipal canvasses to be completed before the Comelec en banc hearing.

"It is incumbent upon us to have a determination if the local elections were done to a lawful manner or if it was a sham," Tuason said.

Genuine Opposition's head counsel Sen. Ed Angara said the poll body "should act fast for evidence of fraud is overwhelming."

Despite the Comelec's summons, none of Maguindanao's newly proclaimed officials attended yesterday's hearing. But the lawyer of Maguindanao Vice Mayor Sandra Mandaya was present. Mandaya had filed a petition to nullify the proclamation of winning mayoral candidate, Ibrahim Ampatuan.

Abalos also ordered that individual motions to serve to the proclaimed candidates and the board of election inspectors (by Friday's hearing. With a report from Nathaniel Mclkyen, trainee

He hates being called ...

dates.

The accolade by Bedol has soon prompted the Comelec to warn him that he would have sense if he did not apologize for his statement.

Who is Bedol and why would a man from such a far-flung area as Maguindanao be a source of inspiration for many people?

An accounting graduate of the Philippine Mercedian College with a law degree from the Ateneo Ramon Bedoya University, the 53-year-old Bedol broke into the national consciousness at the height of the "Hello Garci" tape scandal in 2005.

Bedol's name cropped up in the supposed wiretapped conversation between Mr. Arroyo and retired Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano dealing with alleged attempts to rig the results of the 2004 presidential election.

'Wet run'

On that tape, a woman who sounded like Mr. Arroyo was heard requesting concern that she was losing in Cotabato. The man who sounded like Garcillano replied, "I have already talked with Attorney Bedol."

The '200—000 drivers, farmhands and Bedol ... denied commanding any brand.

Bedol yesterday vehemently denied anything an earlier Comelec order for him to appear on May 30, claiming it was not for who the Ateneo Ramon Bedoya law professor of Maguindanao's 21 municipal boards of canvassers.

When not one member appeared that day, the Comelec—sitting as the National Board of Canvassers—created a special board to canvass the vote tallies of the municipal level after declaring it "statistically improbable" that 19 senatorial candidates would score two Maguindanao-wide.

"I am not the kind of person (to ignore a summons)," Bedol told reporters.

"There are the things that I don't understand because the last hearing that I was given direction (to attend) was (for) one on May 25," he added.

"I would be wrong for me either to come to Manila without a directive. Without a subpoena, you will not be able to (subject) your opponents."

Bedol explained that four days after his May 25 appearance, he never knew to Comelec to to oversee the proclamation of winning provincial candidates.

Future of Digs

Before leading a job in the Comelec as provincial election supervisor of Sultan Barduan in 1995, Bedol ran a private law office with retired Maguindanao Rep. Didagen Dilangalen.

Bedol said that since he left his firm, he has been serving in Maguindanao for 10 years since he started working with the Comelec were double-tasked about his assignments because his law partner, Dilangalen, was running for Congress.

Bedol admitted to being a close friend of Garcillano. What he said he despised was people branding him the "second Garci."

"I have not talked to any national figure yet. So maybe I am not the second Garci," he said in jest.

Bedol's doctrine

Bedol also cited the "hallmark doctrine" under which—in his view—it was not "mathematically impossible" for candidates to score votes in Maguindanao because of the so-called "command votes."

By "command votes" is meant that ordinary folk vote according to the bidding of their leaders or elders.

Opposition lawyer Leila de Lima earlier noted that the "retired" provincial CoC included 122 returns for Team Unity.

De Lima, in a television interview, branded the Maguindanao CoC "a fraud ... because the results were manufactured."

"If you have 19 candidates receiving (votes) and you have an extremely abnormally high percentage of votes in favor of (some) three candidates, it is mathematically impossible to get, in a province, a turnout (average of) 80- to 95 percent, those circumstances make the figures (so) statistically incredible as winning the (senatorial) 18 times, (people) using a Supreme Court ruling," De Lima said.

"If (also) is a hallmark of a candidate, it (was) proven that his friends will (also) vote for the candidate," Bedol said, adding that candidates who (are losers and conduct) door-to-door campaigning fared well among the Muslims.

CoC defended

Standing by the assailed CoC, Bedol said he would still push for the canvassing of the vote tally.

"Of course, that is my work. I signed (that I testified to its authenticity and to its completeness, that's why I want it to be canvassed," he said.

Bedol, the 14th member of Maguindanao province's board of canvassing tasked to sing Bahay na Pula (Red House) song. "Hindi ko ang bahay na (That house is) ..." NOEL a report from Cyril L. Bautista, Inquirer Research

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On Independence Day, Kenney says RP 'a special place'

By Michael Lim Ubac

ON THE EVE OF THE 109TH commemoration of Philippine independence from colonial rule, the United States ambassador said the country remained "very free."

"Happy independence," Ambassador Kristie Kenney said.

"This is a great country filled with wonderful people. We're proud to celebrate independence amongst all of you. It's clear, to all of us, [this is] a very special moment," she said, adding that she "feels at home here."

Kenney said the country was on the correct path having chosen a democratic setup.

"Now, we can all agree that sometimes democracy is not pretty. I don't it sure beats the hell out of the alternative," she told reporters at Malacañang after the rites honoring slain US Peace Corps volunteer Julie Campbell. (See related story on Page A2.)

"I have a great partner in my office ... the Philippine flag going up and the American flag coming down. I think it's a great symbol of the wonderful friendship we've always had," Kenney said.

The picture she was referring to was of the July 4, 1946 ceremony when the US formally gave the Philippines back its freedom.

That took place at Fort Santiago in Manila. The blues and the reds were lowered as the Philippine flag was raised in its place.

On Aug. 8, 1994, President Ophelia Macapagal, Mr. Arroyo's father, changed the date of Philippine independence to June 12, 1898, the date Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo proclaimed freedom from Spain in Kawit, Cavite.

Kenney remembered the things Filipinos should be grateful for.

"Filipinos are known throughout the world for their hospitality, their innovations, their services, their climbing Mount Everest, their working in the White House, their winning boxing matches, their hosting important international summits.

"And if I can say on a personal note, I thank all of you. I feel at home. I've wonder this my home now and I know my colleagues would feel the same. That's correct from the east to the west countries—a special place," she said.

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The Daily Gospel

Tuesday, June 12, 2007
10th Week in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: 2 Cor 1:18-22
Gospel: Matthew 5:13-16

Jesus said to his disciples, "You are the salt of the earth. But if salt has lost its strength, how can it be made salty again? It is good for none unless it is cast out to be trodden under foot by men. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and covers it, instead it is put on a lampstand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine before others, so that they may see the good you do and praise your Father in heaven."

Commentary

Was my mind the letter to the Corinthians, probably the longest of the early churches, about? groups of 40 people each, founded by Paul, Timothy, and Silvanus. They preached Jesus as the Son of God always. We are God, and we are gray to the Father in the power of the Spirit, with Jesus saying them. We are established with Christ in God. Hence the "in" always, or do we really in it?

We are the salt of the earth, Matthew, Jesus to the gospel. Salt is used to add flavor, to cure and preserve, to cleanse. Saying to readers he was taught that Jesus' Are we that? We are the light of the world, a city whose inhabitants would like light and the smell of God to Jesus. So our love together as Church to our country would lead and draw others to praise God to Father (Jesus all)?

(Quotes: Publications Inc., 4 Manresa St., QC PO Box, Talibon, Bohol City, QC PO, Box 4, Talibon, 6312, Quezon City, 56, 1021 Metro Box 423, 7626, E-mail: info@quotes.ph, Website: http://www.quotes.ph/, Subscription: 6 http://www.dailygospel.org (Quotes: Bible versions in the Philippines)

Inquirer.net, Yahoo! offer Independence Day stream

By Erwin Oliva
Inquirer.net

FILIPINOS ALL OVER THE WORLD can now celebrate Philippine Independence Day on locally. thanks to a new online video service launched by Inquirer.net in partnership with the world's most popular search site, Yahoo!

Dubbed Inquirer.net VOD or VOD (http://inquirer.pressreleasecenter.com/vod), the new site will offer videos from Inquirer.net and its partners, and encourage viewers worldwide to submit their own videos.

The videos will also be posted on the Bong Pilipino blog (http://www.inquirerblogger.net/bongpilipino) that Inquirer.net also launched to celebrate the June 12 Independence of Filipinos all over the world.

"Inquirer.net decided to offer its own online video service because it was the natural progression, the next logical step toward the evolution of online media," said Leo Magpie, executive editor and multimedia editor of Inquirer.net.

Magpie said audio and video were becoming an integral part of web content just like text and images.

Magpie said that the partnership with Yahoo! coincided with Inquirer.net's long-term vision for multimedia services—moving beyond the web to mobile phones, TV social networks and the like.

"Inquirer.net is the most visited Filipino news site. Yahoo! is the world's most popular site and biggest portal. It's a good match, right?" said Joey Alarilla, multimedia editor of Inquirer.net.

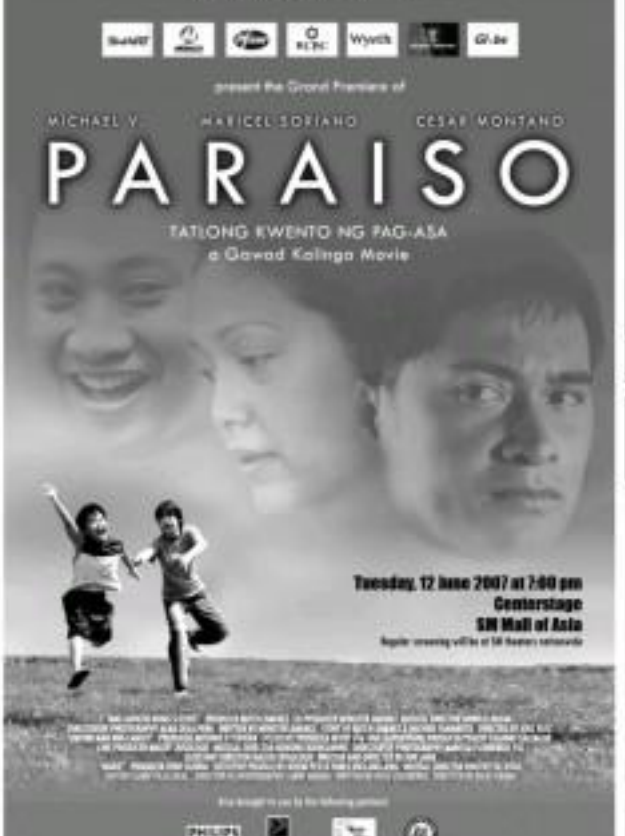
Videos should be sent via e-mail or inquirervod@yahoo.com.ph and include a brief description of 100 words or less.

Corrections

IN "IT ALL ADDS UP," June 11, 2007, the caption of a photo accompanying the Sunday Lifestyle story on Pepsi-Cola—"Inaugural Mercurial Hospitality: A part of a match"—misspelled the surname of the groom's mother. The groom's mother is Rosita Saraalvez Sermonga-d—not Sermongad.

* * *

ARETHA PAVO CARTOON on the same page misnamed the names of some of the wedding guests. The guests were Minerva—not Ingrid—Talamero Lobo—not Sobo. Trevor Caballesha, and Nevaeh Antonio Mendoza—not Mendosa.



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US spy plane, Navy help search for priest

Leakage row ...

From page A1

Jesuit Librarian Fenn (MILF) area behind the abduction of Fr. Clarence Bunch, 57, in Payao town in Zamboanga Sibugay.

But an MILF official said the Abu Sayyaf [unclear] group was behind the abduction.

Mohagher Iqbal, the MILF chief negotiator, said the location that Abdusakur Asiddin, alias Commander Robin, the alleged leader of the armed men who snatched the priest, was a member of the Abu Sayyaf.

"If the captors' leader is Robin, definitely it's the work of the Abu Sayyaf. Robin had long joined the Abu Sayyaf organization," Iqbal said in a phone interview.

The MILF is engaged in peace negotiations with the government.

Iqbal said his counterpart in the negotiations had asked him about Commander Robin.

"I told them that Robin was a member of the Abu Sayyaf and had been linked to previous kidnappings in the Zamboanga Peninsula," the MILF official said.

Bunot, a member of the Pontifical Institute for Foreign Missions (Prime), was abducted in Sitangkai Hill in Tapao while on his way to Sarangani Bulanan where he was to say Mass.

Payao Mayor Isacio Mendoza said Bunot was on his motorbike after saying Mass at the Santo Niño Parish Church in Hill when he was abducted.

Hill in Hill, a Subanen (indigenous) driver identified only as Taloy, who escorted Bunot to Bulanan, saw a bagful of rape seven the road.

Attackers said Taloy slipped from his motorcycle to seize the rope when armed men suddenly appeared.

The lawyer said the abductors also took Taloy's fuel, three cellphone and P5,000 about the kidnapping when Taloy was released," he said.

Bottle water, canned goods

Police recovered food items, bottled water, canned goods and the rope from the place where food was abducted.

"It indicates that the kidnappers were making out the prize," Mendoza said in a phone interview.

Bunot, from Italy's Abbiategrasso region, was loaned to board a motorboat, officials said.

Soon after the incident, reports spread all over Payao about the kidnapping. Members and residents got angry and demanded that authorities immediately seek for the safe release of Father Bunot.

The group has claimed responsibility for Bunot's kidnapping but the military accused Moro militants of abducting the missionary.

"The Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police are coming effective to conduct rescue operations," the military information chief, Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro, said reporters.

The military has sent the army's 102nd Infantry Brigade to help in the rescue operations.

The troops were headed toward Tungawan to follow up initial reports that Bunot and his abductors were seen boarding two pump boats and moving toward the town, Bacarro said.

US forces providing counterterrorism training to Philippine soldiers deployed a P2-billion airplane to scour the southernmost of the possibility that Bunot might have been taken to Jolo, a list of al Qaeda-linked militants, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said.

"We ordered the AFP to do everything to recover the priest," Ermita said.

The MILF received information that Bunot was brought to an island between Zamboanga and Basilan, according to Iqbal.

Marine Maj. Gen. Ben Dolorfino, commander of the government's 3rd Mar. Joint Action Group Unified, said Bunot's captors were members of an MILF unit commanded. The Abjag, which has government and MILF patrols, is one of the three groups that were formed to implement the ceasefire agreement between the two sides.

Dolorfino said another MILF commander was linked to the abduction. "He is Jack. Right now, our troops in the area believe that the suspect belong to an MILF [unit] command," he said.

He said Abjag was looking at the group of Wanong Abdusalam and Binsa Musnin as the one responsible for Bunot's abduction. The men belonged to an armed lawless group, he said.

The MILF has denied that its men were involved in the kidnapping and has offered to help authorities obtain the release of the Italian priest.

Sultan Naga Dimaporo

"Our effort is concentrated in Sultan Naga Dimaporo town in Lanao del Norte where the Italian priest was brought by his captors. We believe he is still there [or near] Bunot or we [are] certain it," Iqbalfire said.

He later gave another location as the military and police coordinated with the MILF in the rescue operation.

Dolorfino said the government and MILF forces were sensing in on a municipality in Zamboanga Sibugay when Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces (BIAF), the MILF's armed forces, were being sent.

He said that since it was confirmed that Bunot and the kidnappers were indeed in this municipality which he did not disclose, BIAF members would be instructed to prevent the abductors from leaving the area.

"This was in order to make them have few or options and make them surrender to the operations," he said of Bunot's abductors.

He said the Abjag was adopting the strategy it used when it rescued a German and his Filipino wife and two other Filipinos who were abducted by an armed group in Cotabato early this month.

The MILF area while to rescue the kidnappers in a roundabout to Cotabato, leaving them to release the hostages.

Helicopter gunboats

A Navy helicopter and three gunboats have been sent to the province, said Commodore Emilio Mercijog, commander of the Naval Forces Western Mindanao.

"Time element is very important. We to extract the report after lunch [Sunday]. Until now we don't have any sightings or leads. If the report turns out [to be] positive, we dispatch the gunboats," Mercijog said yesterday.

But Brig. Gen. Edgardo Garcia said he was confident the MILF would be of big help.

The MILF has a good record when it comes to negotiating the immediate release of kidnap victims, he said.

"We have big hopes that the MILF will help because this is not the first time it helped the government," Garcia said.

MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu said the government's "high hopes" would be "a big disappointment" to the MILF.

Director General Oscar Calderon of the Philippine National Police said the police and military were focusing on the coastal areas of Naga and Tungawan.

"We are checking them (Bunot's abductors)," Calderon said. With reports from Alexis Pedrasa and Michael Lim Ubac

From page A1

nursing graduates, who spoke to the Inquirer by phone from Angeles City on condition of anonymity.

She said she and other graduates formed their review at the request [unclear] by Unit II and "I asked were supposedly the subject of the leaked questions last year.

The leaked questions were allegedly provided by several review centers to their clients.

The controversy grew due to two factors—one that was for a results by off graduates to reveal the origins of cheating, and the other vehemently against a rule to receive it would result in removal.

Saturday about 13,000 nursing graduates voluntarily retook the exams.

Depressed

Another nursing graduate said she felt "super depressed" after the exam because she did not expect it to be so difficult. To console themselves, she and her friends doubled to eat out after taking the tests.

She also said most of the topics that were discussed during the review session sponsored by the Department of Labor and Employment came up in the exam.

A male nursing graduate pointed out that the presence of questions about other topics in the test's supported the earlier statements of anti-trade groups that were anti-, not the exam tests, the competence of the nursing graduates had been measured by the test of the exams. panies that sustained questions related to Tools II and V.

He also said the review yesterday morning became a reunion of sorts for June 2006 examinees.

"Because of the controversy, we got to know each other. When we saw each other, it was like meeting old friends," he said.

He also said there was more pressure on some people, especially those who are working in Japan. Some of them are looking to find a job in the United States. "This is their only chance to work in the U.S. so they have to pass this," he said.

The 13-[unclear] Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools (CGFNS) required passers of the June 2006 nursing licensure exam to retake Tests II and V if they wanted to work in the United States.

The CGFNS provides the visa screen test for Filipino nurses intending to work in the United States.

It also sent a team of observers from a Filipino law firm to check out the review. But some of the nurses voiced the concern that the observers were not allowed inside the rooms where the review took place. They were also prohibited from talking to the examinees.

She said the observers instead checked if the tests for the PRC examinees, handled and distributed the exam materials.

They were also allowed to stay on the grounds of the schools where the exams were held.

The observers are expected to submit a report to the PRC.

Security measures

Labor Secretary Arturo Brion said the security measures for the government-administered retake of the exam ought to satisfy the CGFNS, which fined four Filipino lawyers to observe how the retest was conducted.

"We hope they will be satisfied in their observation of exam-taking that has transpired in the exam process. We don't want a return to the 2006 experience [of having to deal] with a leakage controversy," Brion told reporters.

Brion, who deputized law night for Geneva to attend the International Labor Conference, said he and the PRC would jointly release the results of the retake by the first week of July.

The Department of Justice declined to identify the names of the four lawyers...all from Quisumbing Torres—saying reporters may not interview them until they submit their report to the CGFNS.

From the department sources, the lawyers was able to identify two—Rodrigo Quimbo and Marvin Magnayon.

The observers were escorted by police from the PRC to their hotel rooms every night in Manila, Cebu, Davao and Baguio centers.

One of the lawyers will observe the administration of the retake-planned exam boarders back to the board of nursing and the commissioned the June 13th papers.

Retaker won't lose license

Whether a retaker fails or passes, he or she will not lose his or her license, Brion said. The license is valid until June by the PRC, according to Brion.

Sources said the exams were unsafely.

The reviewer said that about 13,000 people registered for a retake of Tests I and V. The labor department put the figure at 11,000.

But she said the PRC hated to figure on the number of people who submitted their applications for the retest.

GMA confers Golden Heart Order on Campbell

From page A1

aims "to promote world peace and friendship." Since 1986, the agency has enlisted more than 187,000 volunteers in 126 countries. Over 8,000 of them have served in the Philippines.

Killed while hiking

In attendance during the brief ceremony at Malacañang were US Ambassador Kristie Kenney, Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. and Philippine National Police Director General Oscar Calderon.

Campbell, of Fairfax, Virginia, was to have left this month after serving two years in the Philippines, where she helped establish an ecology center that has been named for her in Bontoc town in Mountain province.

The 40-year-old former journalist also taught English and Literature at the Divine Word College in Legaspi City in Albay.

Campbell's decomposing body was discovered on April 18 in a shallow grave, 15 days after she disappeared while hiking in the famed mountain rice terraces of Batad, Ifugao. On April 27, Juan Dominguez, a resident, surrendered to police and confessed to the killing.

What Americans are like

Dominguez is now facing murder charges but has yet to be arraigned by the Regional Trial Court Branch 34 in Lagawe, Ifugao.

A journalist by the New York Times and various other newspapers for 11 years, Campbell had said she decided to join the Peace Corps "to throw myself in the world what America was really like because after 9/11, people had the impression that Americans are bad, selfish and greedy."

Kenney told reporters that "it's a huge loss, not to continue to work in the Philippines and certainly for the people of Bontoc" but expressed confidence to continue the work done by a colleague who unfortunately is no longer with us."

Campbell's grisly murder has not discouraged other American volunteers from coming to the Philippines, Kenney said.

"Our focus right now, very truthfully, is to continue our program. We have 16 new volunteers in country training. We'll be swearing them in in early August, and our focus is on making sure they're getting out in do the things we and the Filipino people need us to do."

Asked about the handling of the murder case, Romeo said: "It's still continuing to be worked through the judicial system, and that's in Philippine hands."

Parents eager to visit

Kenney said Campbell's parents were not able to make it to the celebration rites, but were "eager to visit the Philippines to see the country their daughter so loved, and have the chance to meet with the many people" who touched her in return.

She said Filipinos "from every corner" had come out "to tell all of us how much they loved not just Julia and her work but the brave Corpa volunteers and I know her parents want a chance to thank everyone."

Campbell worked as a freelance journalist for The New York Times, People magazine, Time magazine, Court TV and InsideVoice.com before she came to the Philippines.

According to an AP report, as a journalist in New York City, Campbell was a tenacious reporter, and fellow reporters remembered her generosity and courage.

This writes in her blog that "At the age of 20, I decided to step out of the ear 'new' New York, join the Peace Corps and 'travel a place' for Manila." With a report from AP

Archbishop dissuades Benedict from coming

By Jovanie Aning

LINGAYEN-DAGUPAN ARCHDIOCESE Oscar Cruz has urged Pope Benedict XVI to decline President Macapagal-Arroyo's invitation to visit the Philippines because the trip might be used to cover up the administration's wrongdoings.

"A papal visit would dignify a national leadership that is suffering from a dire lack of moral authority on one to minimize its big sociopolitical liabilities," Cruz said in a message titled "Do not come, please," posted in the blog (http://archbishop.com).

Cruz said a papal visit would be "another event to create a media circus," adding, "The country is anything but safe and crime-free."

The archbishop referred to several adversities lamented by various quarters, including their citizens' outrages in the Philippine invasion of the political killings and disappearances, angry rallies and their worst, unprecedented, terrorist threats, unprecedented.

The prelate also mentioned the distraction of Italian prime Giuseppe Romano Prodi on Monday and the murder of Anglican bishop Alberto Ramos last year.

"Popes were also killed or are in hiding from foreign Catholic priests are not spared from unconscionable murder and sudden abduction ... More than the question of who did the killing and abduction, the fact remains that these unclothed deeds continue to happen under the country," he stated.

The archbishop also noted that the Arroyo administration was "not exactly known for integrity and honesty in the handling of funds, especially when considering big public events" such as a papal visit.

"The visit will give government officials the sobering occasion to make money for themselves," he said, citing the fraudulent bid by Commissioner Anton Nicholas entered in Cebu in January where some 1,000 lampposts were reportedly purchased for 40 times their actual price.

The Pope was no stranger to the visit by Pope John Paul II to the Philippines.

A church statement announced that Papal Nuncio Archbishop Fernando Filoni will be the first envoy to the Vatican to be now undertaken by the general affairs, the second-highest ranking officer of the Secretariat of State. He replaces Archbishop Leonardo Sandri, who was appointed prefect for the Congregation for Eastern Churches.

F. Lim-Joseph; 78

FUNERAL PRIVATE. LIM VDA. DE JOSEPH CF Ilano Fernandez, La Union, died on June 11. She was 78.

The widow of Robert Joseph, she is survived by children Robert Jr., Ralph, Sandra and Rosamond, daughters-in-law Ida Mendiola, Rachel Medina, Marlene de Leon and Meggie Ayala, grandchildren and other relatives.

Her remains will lie at the Immaculate de Son Antonio chapels, Harlem Park, Makati City, as of June 15. In lieu of flowers, her family has asked for contributions to her favorite charity—ABS-CBN's Bantay Bata Foundation.

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"Kailangan ko ang negosyo natin, para makauwi na po kayo."

Isa ang pakiusap ni Erick Jude ni Carmela O. Guerrero, isang domestic helper na naghahanapbuhay sa Hongkong. Ang pamilya ni Carmela ay isa sa mga unang nakatanggap ng SMART Biz Businessman Box Package, na iginagalandok sa pagdiriwang ng Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) ng Ika-109 na Araw ng Kalayaan. Maramin ang naparoon sa mga kiosk-wawang sakop ni Erick. Punay nga't nakatutuwan rito at marami sa mga nakaranasan ang mayaon mahyang pamilya ng mga OFW na nawalay sa kanilang mga mahal sa buhay.

Noong Ika 8 Hunyo, 2007, inagaw sahol ang diam diang tao sa pagtitikas ng isa sa mga proyekto ng DBP at SMART ang — **"DBP-SMART OFW I-aat Negosyo Program - Negosyo Mo, Taya Ko."** Magtatao ng pautang P1 Bilyon ang DBP para sa programang ito na magkakaloon magtayo ng pangnegosyo sa mga OFW at kanilang mga naiwang pamilya sa bansa. Ang pagLAunsad na ito ay dinaluhan ng mga opisyal ng DBP na pinangungunahan nina Chairman Patricia A. Sto. Tomas at President at CEO Reynaldo G. David. Pakaunting pambungat din nang gabing iyon sina Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Undersecretary Danilo P. Cruz at Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) Administrator Markendro D. Baguir.

"Sa pamamagitan ng **DBP-SMART OFW I-aat Negosyo**, ang mga OFW ay makatatanggap din ng isang negosyo mula sa kanilang mga pinagkakitaan sa ibang bansa. Makabig tulong din sa kanilang kinakabasan at sa kabuhayan ng mga naiwang mahal sa buhay sa Pilipinas. Ang negosyong ito ay maaaring bayaran sa pamamagitan ng DBP-PC Remit, isang bank-to-bank ng 12 kompanya. 18 bawang pagpapadala ng remittance ay makatatapan rin ang **DBP-SMART OFW I-aat Negosyo** package," ayon kay DBP President David.

"Napakadaling magkaroon ng mobile na kabuhayan sa pamamagitan ng **DBP-SMART OFW I-aat Negosyo**. At ang mangandiwa sa isito ay isang kasama ng isang pang antibidad sa antasya ng SMART Bro, isang cellular phone na may SMART Load Retailer Unit at P100,000 load na maaaring gamitin yung SMART Load Business. Sobrahan din naming maggagamit ang bagong computer-para makasagot ang kanilang mga mahal sa buhay, saan man sa kabisuhan," pahayag ni Danilo L. Medina, Head ng Wireless Consumer Division ng SMART.

"Kung ay magagalak sa mismo at panatilang tugon ng mga OFW sa makatotohanang pamumuhay sa—bansa ka rin. Alalahanin po," sagot ni DBP President David.

Dagdag pa ni Medina, "Layunin ng **DBP-SMART OFW I-aat Negosyo** na bigyan ang bawat pamilya ng OFW ng panibagong pag-asa at kabuhayan — kabuhayan sa kahirapan, kabuhayan sa kapatiran sa kapwa, kabuhayan sa pagsulong ng kabuhayang pinasama."

Isang gabi ng saysayan, kantahan at kasiyahan ang sumunod bilang pagdiriwang ng Ika-109 na Araw ng Kalayaan. Pinagtitikan ang mga manunuod ng kakaibang programang tampok ang mga DBP Talents kasama sina Christian Bautista, Rachel Ann Go, ang mga Philippine Idol Finalists na sina Jan Mots, Apple Chiu, Ken Dingle, Arms Cruz at si Bb. Vina Morales.

"Isang Mithiin Tungo sa Tagumpay." Ito ang nagsilbing gabay ng institusyong DBP. At nakikita ang SMART sa mithiing iisi

DBP

DAHIL SMART TAYO

INQUIRER
OPINION

Wrong priorities

EDITORIAL

THE LAST REGULAR SESSION OF THE 13TH Congress adjourned last Friday after passing, among other measures, a bill converting the franchise of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. But Congress failed to pass the cheaper medicines measure, a bill that would revise the charter of the University of the Philippines and a measure that would compensate the human rights victims of the Marcos regime.

It's an indication of Congress' sense of priorities that it gave more importance to a bill that would promote a vice than to measures that would place life-saving medicines within the reach of the poor; give the premier university of the country greater financial security; and, in a little way, compensate close to 10,000 human rights victims. The 13th Congress had 462 session days over a period of three years to pass these three important measures but failed to do so. Now it is being suggested that a special session be called so that it can act on the three bills.

The cheaper medicines bill ran into strong opposition from a pharmaceutical lobby. At one point during the deliberations on the bill in the House, Makati Rep. Teodoro Locsin blew his top and told rival law lobbyists to leave the session hall after they sent him a note urging him to question the presence of a quorum. Ultimately, the measure was not passed by Congress because the House was not able to approve it on third and final reading.

The Senate ratified a new charter for UP that would grant it greater institutional and fiscal autonomy and a bicameral conference committee reconciled its Senate and House versions. But the House failed to ratify the conference committee report before Congress adjourned. The measure would allow the exemption of UP from the Salary Standardization Act and enable it to increase the salaries of its staff, give tax exemptions to donations used solely for educational purposes and grant greater autonomy by removing Malacañang's power to appoint the UP president and several representatives.

The bill that would compensate victims of human rights abuses during the martial law regime of deposed dictator Ferdinand Marcos went through many revisions. At one point, the measure would have allocated P8 billion for the victims; at another, the amount was raised to P10 billion. It would have benefited 9,539 documented victims who suffered human rights violations from 1972 to 1986. Although Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales said it was a very significant bill because it would make the state realize that it is responsible and accountable for human rights violations.

The passage of the three measures would have made the record of the 13th Congress more noteworthy. A Congress Watch report of the Makati Business Club last April said that only about a third of the total of the bills passed (28 of 86 laws or 32.6 percent) were of national importance. These included, aside from the 2007 General Appropriations Act, the Biofuels Act, the Automated Elections Act (which was not carried out for lack of time), an Act Declaring Any Form of Cheating in Civil Service Examinations as Unlawful (it was lauded before the passage of the law!), an Act Allowing the No-Balikbayan Sale of Government-owned Properties to Their Occupants for Socialized Housing, the Human Security Act (the anti-terrorism law) and the One-Time Tax Amnesty Act.

Now executive and congressional leaders are considering the possibility of calling a special session to act on the cheaper medicines bill, the UP charter measure and the bill that would compensate human rights victims. But some congressional leaders have expressed doubt that a quorum could be mustered because the losing senatorial-slate congressmen, who make up about one-fourth of the House, would not be enthusiastic about attending the sessions.

A special session would entail the expenditure of tens of millions of pesos in government funds. If there is no assurance from congressional leaders that a quorum can be mustered to pass the three important measures, what is the use of calling a special session? Congress dilly-dallied in the past three years and now it would penalize taxpayers for its shortcomings by making them spend millions more on a special session. It might be better for the leaders of the incoming 14th Congress to agree to place the three important measures at the top of the agenda of the regular session that will open in less than a month's time. There should be no more excuses for the non-passage of the three priority measures this time.

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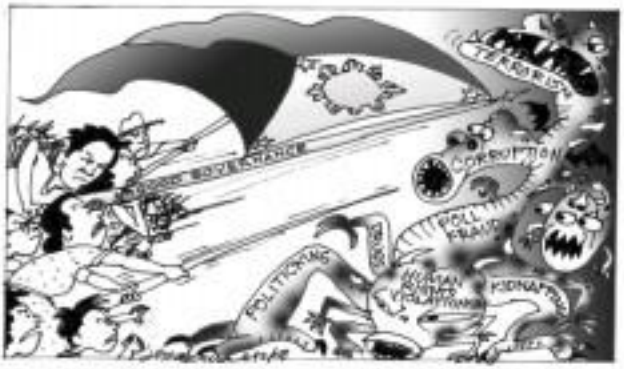

Caudillos in coat and tie

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

"AT THE AGE OF 6, WITH PAPER HATS AND wooden swords, we're all generals," actor Bernard Bernardo recalls. "But some of us never outgrow it." There's apparently more to the Duterte editorial. "Ed, no call?" Jun Sunday.

In election's end, possibly four Philippine Military Academy graduates could be among the 20 senators. Nine to homecoming congressmen. Did Sen. Ed Ilarde "Ilarde" get the message that voters, in a country where family dynasties monopolize privileges, apologized?

For starters, these four may organize a "Caudillos Club." It'll echo the "Wednesday Group" of senators known as "the boys" who reviewed criminal, "dirt dirtier edits," but, Pacific Lumen says of Congress chairman and Navy Lt. Antonio Trillanes. (Classified, the Caudillos may "forge a consensus on issues, perhaps, even vote in unison," Mike Arroyo's Senate ally.)

No, they're never born "in the same side of history," the Internet noted. "The last thing a nation with a mean historical sense needs" is a bunch of caudillos, whose coat and ties can't hide colonizing agendas. Indeed, the term implements of all history lessons is that men do not learn much from them, Aldous Huxley once grumbled.

In the book Marites guessed, Brown analyzed six coup plotters. In contrast, Bonifacio's Bagumbayan fashioned six coup mottoes, from "God Save The Queen" to the Magdalo mantra. "All the coups that he identified (Trillanes) as a model of sorts," the reviewer's study "Closer Than Brothers" points out. Lawsuit's star-to-power marvel from the Marcos dictatorship's torture chambers, the same study adds. And Trillanes seems that destined heiress Princess Joseph Estrada fashioned Magdalo's constitution to "Filipino citizenship-ownership" "coups for cross."

"The worst thing about the (Caudillos) idea, however, lies in the message it sends," the inquiry added. "It says to PMA graduates, once those who manage to get elected to Congress or exercise political leadership: Stage a coup. Launch a coming. If you make it to the former, you're exclusive club has a seat reserved for you."

There'd function further the military mind. All can often, it is authoritarian and statehood, ratify subversive, scholar Samuel Huntington warned. Years to the loss of duress, this mind an huge democratic government.

It is "sub zero" like the Philippines, this problem is exacerbated. "If those who have democratic dominance the governing elite, demonstration and transition from Ukraine to Egypt's caliber," Dr. Carolina Hernandez wrote verified to "Public Policy."

Look at Burma's ground junta. Liberation made a hearing after Pangalinan's Khin Nyunt. Bandit's nations of the PMG officers were ousted into Bangkok. Executed mind sets in Military Commission No. 1 sentenced former Sen. Religious Saguisag to death by misdemeanor, were about military crimes were operating.

Freedom Journal U. Quezon "was always wary of military involvement in politics," fr. Alfred McCoy recalls in the late study. In 1836, Quezon set up the PMA in the garrison of then Fort Santiago and St. Cyr. It would "inculcate a sense of professional officers," and thus keep control over the nation's accounts to established political elites, whether nationalist sentiment from University of the Philippines or corporate executives from Ateneo.

The 1960s first graduates fought in World War II and served to the conservational desire of command. But Marcos amended the genie's hands. By PMA class was more fascinated than Class "71 to attain Lenin and Fonacier, Trotsky, the '60s study notes. Among the 85 graduates, ... at least five practiced nausea, six were arrested... They were the ultimate extremes of martial law."

"Constitutional rupture" of caudillos writes, the late Senate historian Horacio Morallos noted. "They're oblivious to the irony that their creed hearkens Alas' Jedong's axiom, democracy, they told us, grants out of the barrel of a gun."

Not for that, too, is the "Rebel 32." Two civilians, plus 30 generals, including Edilon Ver, helped Marcos clamp down martial law and were gifted with amidees, along with boons. Do many House Ethics and Industry Exemption hearings on the Senate probing gives their collaborators's redemptions?

Military publishing left an ARP time it today the stamp of house armed forces. "Creeping institutionalization" of the bureaucracy from President Ferdinand Marcos to President Macapagal Arroyo's march, annulment.

The majority of officers remain committed to constitutional government. They refused to participate in the last coup attempts, although dismissals. Those who did, like Honasan, Gringo Honasan, the military mind see pension.

Intelligence Service chief Maj. Gen. Cirilo Baroja never skipped hearings called by the Commission on Human Rights on extrajudicial activities. Asian Bishops Fr. Shalty appointed, only to scuff that such abductions never "leaves level issues." "The salaries and time were applied to "assisted house like torturers."

Ironically, the constitutional regime that is two decades for human rights and rejects accountability. For Bonifacio Rosario prison or may's Jose Glorado jail, this may be translated. But here, 25 years after Angelo Reyes' The AFP's commander in chief, after all, claims the better by the Commission on Human Rights. The incumbent editorial reminds the Caudillos to pay the message right, despite holders of three mind sets. "Time pour the country," as Lyric writer Ann Sue Wicks says, "Any time ballet previously it tumphing of patriots."

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How do you solve a problem like Trillanes?

(Conclusion)

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

AT THE VERY LEAST, THE QUESTIONS THAT arrives around the kind of kind government finds itself in.

Item No. 11 specifically shows us. "To (a. Trillanes should be released on bail by the time he sits as senator." What's unusual about that is that it comes from Atty. Romulo Macalintal, who is the rank and file duties of it should really be of no consequence. Whether Trillanes should be released on bail or not or never his duties as senator is not a matter for the lawmaker to decide. It is a matter for the courts to decide.

Unofficially, that question is real in the courts — and shows not quite facetiously how late in this country, far from being the severely benign and the impassionately objective presence it is treated not to be, is the terribly oppressive and principally malevolent apparition it is. The fact of Trillanes does not hang on the issue of his exercise of his office, it hangs on the executive perception of it. Especially of the people who hold the keys. Whether or not Trillanes will be allowed to serve as senator in the halls of the Senate or in his detention cell depends wholly on how the rank and file feels about it. The supreme leadership cannot afford to piss off the people who matter.

Me. 12 is chock voluminous. "Trillanes should have availed for the annulment of the charges against him before running for public office." Like the previous question, officially at least this one has nothing to do with Trillanes's right to run for office or his consequences. Unofficially, and practically, the answer to that six decades to his case. Is it not just Trillanes' liberty while serving as senator that is at stake here, it is his future as a free man or a remaining prisoner.

The real question, in fact, the one that hits beneath is: Should Trillanes be recognized as a senator or not? Government's predilection is to say no to, or as loath to have him as a law senator. The one thing it cannot have him, one of the accused in the Oakwood mutiny, suddenly changing his jobs from innocent to guilty. A thing that looked over his lawyers, Rodel Jr. and Jose Espiritu, who could not for the life of them comprehend why a man who issued a very good matter of being acquitted would rather blatantly insist on being jailed for a crime. By doing so, of course, he is dragging down with him his co-accused, chief of them Trillanes.

Whether that rank will prosper or not does not depend on legal implausibility it depends on public sentiment. The message above all of the soldiers demanded.

The other questions merely try to gauge the rank and file's perception of what the public of treaty knows, or invests. If the respondents are aware that the people overlook four or 10 violations, we are probably going to see them sticking off "Strongly Agree" in many of these.

Most citizens certainly will. Yes, many presumed, across-the-board, supported the mutinies of Trillanes — they want his holdouts. Yes, not an issue for Trillanes to capture their disappointment with the present national leadership — more Trillanes in that respect than the other opposition candidates. Yes, a Trillanes win would be a compelling denial of the status quo within the military establishment — some are easier to cast than coups. Yes, within the AFP, Trillanes was implies defiance of the top brass — how else could it be, they were told not to mutinies this?

Yes, Trillanes is successful because of the public's dissatisfaction with the military-as-brute leadership... Trillanes was a referendum on changing that leadership along with the political one. Trillanes represents a strong leadership — the strength can't use physical, to line medieval prisons for four years and counting, and to hold fast to his principles. Yes, Trillanes' votes are equivocated of the public's diminished confidence in the military organization — and especially in the those who are being punished for trying to make it better.

I don't know how the subjects will answer the last five questions, given that they have been formulated baldly. The votes that Trillanes gets in response to each endorsement of Yes, as constitutional "quiet" to change" if of the concept requires radical intervention to achieve reform, such as coup, is for it? I don't know that most soldiers, quite apart from reform, will vote yes.

But change the wording into "anti-democratic" as to constitutional action against that regime" and "radical action" as to change that regime, such as by coups," and the equation changes in many ways. The majority of soldiers could see one of those three. As votes constitutional action against an anti-constitutional regime, or a coup against a coup regime — that is a regime that is founded by legitimate politicians — I don't think it would get a majority. I do not forget, the officers and men, not least of the Marines, are still smarting from having been used to thwart the Erap Estrada ouster when they voted to stop it more mutinies.

The answer is a never-ending pointing to only increasing them, no longer saving. Implication is not to the limits of coups, it is to the future of any action by the citizens rather to secure powers by hook or by crook, by law or by coup. Or by the people's power. Or by mutinies, etc. They cannot afford to lose power in their mind to stop the whirlwind afterward. The question now is how to, Presidential Marcos at least had all the generals of the various commands with him, save Reuben Ileto, when he decided to plunge his country into political darkness. The civilian leadership, civilian and military, can't even count on their own to plunge countries they have deserted as patriots into the whirlwind. Right now, they are only busy singing the refrain.

How do you solve a problem like Trillanes?

Gwendolyn as Cebu's Dragon Lady

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cassayuran

AFTER FILLING THE INTERVIEW OF THE governor on Cebu Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia has thrown the book at the hundreds of local columnists, editors, newspapers a recently finding Speaker Jose de Venecia in the speakership fight versus newly elected Cebu Rep. and former Gov. Pablo Garcia. This is because of the interviews conducted by Manila reporters and Net News Worldwide reporter and his assistant and moderator—Cebu's Dragon Lady. Belinda! Ha ha haha!, who is objecting to the speakership, do his "protests" in the "wrong" manner and the wrong time and to the wrong people. Gov. Garcia insists she is not even with what the interviewer says she can't take it any more. Ha ha haha!

She protested to editorship the House for this or should be driving young workers who will begin her personal name as Cebu's chief executive at the end of the month. Just a couple fight against. Ha!

Rep. Pablo Garcia's son, GMA president and Speaker Ramon Mitra Jr. are also attempting to provide visibility in this fight. There are reports about Mitra[illegible] running various experiments at Davao Medical School in Manila, where he said to have been [illegible] Mitra's [illegible] supposedly P250,000 for the anopheles (there are 107 of them) and P100,000 for the second and third tests. A high-powered PR outfit is handling the media campaign for Pablo, courtesy of Pimentel.

In the process, as Ilan enthusiastic fan has found, she digitally painted out yesterday. She Garcia's name appears as an answer on answering charts and questionnaires. Ha ha haha! Sometimes, in the morning the 40-year-old lawmaker buys the speakership, would be rule the Finance it will it be run by his stubborn? This early, some laws are [illegible] Garcia's name is also up and down at the desk of the "Executive" as the Speaker's office or buy his scandalous diatribes/slips, overwell/interviews and the like.

The joke those of the Garcia is dark tomorrow-ish and dollar. With the Garcia name highlighted during the interview decision, enough to cause the down of the Garcia name in the Cebu political firmament. Or right now. Tito Garcia are in the incoming 10th Congress, Pablo Sr. and his nephew-son, Pablo Jr.

Another serious problem: Pablo Garcia have a the perception of being difficult to get along with and being very reactionary to a Congress that it acting in a not appropriate image. House members who have worked with Garcia say he is capable of all but the aging lawmaker could be so bullheaded and stubborn in his opinions and ideas. In the Constitutional Commission, lawyer Blas Ople, Senate Pres. Jovito Salonga and Fr. Joaquin Bernas would work him in the CenCom, where Garcia's brilliant (he insisted that) in the last exam) was well-appreciated, he opposed the shift to parliamentary form through a constituent assembly, but eventually he lament for the more expensive and time-consuming constitutional convention. Some observers have opined that there's indeed merit to visualizing up for one's own interests in a collegial body such as the Supreme Court, but in the House the leader must be able to have to deliver opinions and get a consensus on issues in order to ensure legislation.

Rumors flew. John Osmeña called up last Jan. 30, after the Senator won't on the governor was published, to inquire her name that first the Cebu Governor. Osmeña told the Senator's to relax the couple to protect, he didn't support her son, then Vice Gov. John Arlan Osmeña, in her bid for the governorship. So, later, he called to see his son, Arlan, to console to know of Gwendolyn. Mean while, Arlan has campaigned against Governor John Osmeña pointed out that Osmeñoists won over Mandaue by only 7,000 votes (so that he'll Mandaue) and John Arlan's the were by the way with the [illegible] Mandaue in 1995.

Governor Garcia's political clan, she wouldn't have to, obviously, tied John, GMA's supposed 1.1 million winning margin over PET in Cebu would've been better delivered to her by the group that won only by 7,000 votes in the race for governor. The problem, says Osmeña, is that the Garcias seek to unite GDA loyalists in Cebu.

What I found truly disturbing was Osmeña's revelation that Pablo Garcia was listed above four years ago, when he was still governor, as the biggest "delinquent taxpayer," a group of the biggest landlords across the country to file a case in the Supreme Court to declare the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) unconstitutional. Osmeña said Garcia at one point P1 million. Ha ha haha! It seems to that Garcia didn't appreciate the significance of CARP in the history of the House that he now wishes to lead others, as writer Emmanuel S. Mones pointed out in the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism's book, Assembly of the Nation." CARP was the "cornerstone" of the speakership of Ramon Mitra. Further, CARP was "the closest impossible unit of the Philippine Congress." Ha ha haha! Garcia was dismissed, especially immediately after Edsa, by the landlord class. In Mitra's era, "Legislators of this kind has typically been imposed by entire families, governorships." Osmeña said he would not understand how the Liberal Party the time of former Senator, representative and governor who is now say House in that would not appeal to the Garcias' position on agrarian reform.

For those masters: will the Lak support him?

'Stunning' news

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

LAST FEBRUARY, ACCORDING TO A NEWS item that appeared in the Malaysian newspaper Star, President Mangosal Amryan was "stunned" by the appearance of a mother of 14 who told her on a TV program that she had not breastfed any of her brood because her nipples were "flattened."

Noralie Gilmore, who is in her 40s and is remarried Tondo, told the President that she had given birth 14 times but only 1/4 of her children survived. When the President advised Gilmore to breastfeed so that she could "save" her baby, she told the mother said it wasn't possible because "my other nipple is smaller and the other one is big."

The President laughed at the alleged confession but fortunately, Cabinet's display of opinion-making was not limited to the Malaysian leader—found to be the Department of Health is drawn in information drive, particularly by condemning more seminars on family planning and other related issues because myths—and wrong information, are usually more believable than the truth.

Well, it's a fable here in Manila and her Lilliputians, with scarce resources (including energy and time) having to be divided among so many children and siblings. If the subject of birth control is not a myth, it's the subject of bad press, or no more seminars, then the national government has endorsed the "abstinence method" of providing the information and services couples on all methods of contraception, and instead has chosen to concentrate on promoting the less efficient, less effective, less acceptable to the couples themselves so-called natural family planning method.

AND I'm sure that's also serious that there is a TRO from the Supreme Court on the implementation of revised hog-importing duties and regulations announced recently by Sabio and Regalado-Trota, and described in writing what the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food has called "misleading, deceptive, and malicious in intent" advertising and promotion activities of an enormous order of bacon-and-ham companies in the Philippines.

To backtrack, in July last year, after years of consultation with industry (including both companies and community groups, United and PBEL), the BOI issued subject to review and updated regulations for implementing the 1986 Milk Code. The updated regulations include a ban on the advertising and promotion of milk substitutes for children up to 2 years old, with no absolute ban on "follow-up/growing-up milks" and "special diets."

Upon the passage of the new BOI, the milk companies, through the Pharmaceutical Health Care Association of the Philippines (PHAP), became a high-pressure campaign to have the BOI revoked or repealed. Subsequently, filing a petition with the Supreme Court to issue a TRO against the BOI's implementation. The campaign culminated in the issuance of a letter from the DA Director of Commerce and Industry recommending that the DA "make representations" seeking about "complications in the US-Philippines economic ties."

Before the letter, the Supreme Court had denied the request for a TRO, asking the BOI to comment on it, and in the three months that followed, after the letter was issued, the Court received itself and issued a TRO without explanation and without even considering the DOH.

THIS is where matters stand now, with the DOH petition due for another hearing before the Supreme Court next week.

What is really stunning is the thought that perhaps even the Court could be influenced—with possible conflict-of-interest implications—by the statements of Trota—or have the rule of milk companies in search of public opinion than of Filipino infants who are at high risk of falling ill or dying from diarrhea, infection and malnutrition as a consequence of negligent bottle-feeding.

As I have said in my previous columns, as many things could go wrong when a baby is not raised on her formula, especially when parents are poor and have easily tempted to resort to shortcuts.

Bottle-feeding requires clean water, still a rarity in many parts of the country, and the ability to read and follow instructions, supplies and cups, which demand expenses but no frill-aware babies formula is much more expensive than regular milk, and other than money for other formula runs out, parents will resort to dilute the contents of the can, thereby depriving their children of the nutrients they need for normal development. Mothers can even with spent time, formula-fed babies are less exposed to illness, diarrhea and infection.

THIS is why the scientific case to maximize the protected evidence strongly backs the contention that "breast milk is best for babies," since no known substitute formula could even approach breast milk in terms of nutrition and protection from infection. While any period of time for exclusive breast-feeding would be good, the optimum length of time has been found to be at least 4 months and up to 2 years of age or beyond.

I remember that when the Milk Code was passed in 1986, we mothers (I had just given birth to my daughter then) were elated and hoped that we Filipino baby would have to die or get sick from bottle-feeding. But almost from the go, milk companies began skirting the regulations, finding new and creative ways to market breast-milk substitutes, including making deceptive claims. More conservative

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Dear Teachers

COMMENTARY

Nenet Sto. Romana Cruz

writer reading or opening the mind to the world. Such thing, a 7th grader responses says that when she reads, she is actually reading someone's thoughts on paper and that without reading, "we wouldn't know who we are."

I don't think, as a high school junior, is quick in his heart to be super English/Reading Reader. To engage in activities that would help students overcome the boredom and sloppiness that they said the last one begin if it comes to me reading and he was here. I don't know if I'm the only teacher who has this and more the data to differ on open-ended. Make your teaching interest and special for "students will most likely never see every book you subscribe to again."

Marjorie Cuevas, Grade 5, wrote a teacher who is kind, intelligent and able to get along well with the class. Her suggestion, the teacher must show and encourage the students just how valuable education is.

Rowena Carmelo, Grade 6, wants assured that her teacher is always eager to learn new things. Miss Gilmore, a high school junior, asks for a more medium but kind teacher, who will show that an evaluating note what a question is good. "Dapat makuha ang pasensya." Her second appeal concern of a pregnant reminder that the students are her pride. Grade 6 student Jonathan Rodriguez is my strong confidence is an additional burden to her family. She wonders that how she had to be absent from school because she did not have the needed contribution for the day.

Julius Cesar Tiano, Grade 6, says that only if learning and interaction would go together, they would be better motivated to attend classes.

Gene Jr., Grade 7, writes that she expects her teachers to make learning more fun which would prompt and to introduce them to courses which to enjoy. Ricardo Jr., Grade 8, adds that lessons be made relevant to life.

Ronald Ruiz, Grade 8, has a simple request: to please keep the class quiet and to repeat instructions to all of those underground when to do.

It is apparent that student expectations are simple as such as their teachers' ability to handle emotions and disappointments or to communicate in a time sensitive only for the student's sake or lesson planning, but to prepare to connect somehow to questions. How will I reach the lives of students? How will I instill in them that the lifelong love for learning?

An old favorite of mine means for teachers is Hilton Goldman's "The first minute of the Wisdom fill Just Dead, but Teachers You Must Right On" (1971). It captures all the youthful angst of Dead Poets Society, plus reading for all teachers. Our poem says it all.

I am a product of everything
—history, everything—
and I am nothing but me and you.
I am a product of laughing,
playing dead,
being Dad
Yeah, I am a product of everything!
But now I'm only a product of everything
of yesterday and tomorrow.

Nenet Sto. Romana Cruz is a writer and editor, a member of the Philippine Board on Books for Young People and trustee of the Sto. Niño Books' Foundation. E-mail comments to nenets@gmail.com

To stay and teach

I HAVE YEARS OLD WHEN MY FEMATRIX HOSPITAL. I BE another imagining myself in a helicopter piloting a of supplies to the self-covered villages and towns. Other times, I thought I was a doctor on a medical mission to his flung area.

When I was 5, I pestered my mother on nearly with questions about everything under the sun. My curiosity was insatiable and most of the time, I quite annoyed her. Before my mother could finish answering one question, I would ask another.

YOUNG BLOOD

Alec Francis
A. Xenios

We want to know what the young are thinking about. Tell us in 250 words or less. Send your submissions to [illegible] Include your contact details.

I delved books at just two among. I remember certain colors, experienced history being made and streamed from of incredible power—all in the comfort of my favorite chair. This, also our frequent summer vacations to places of historic significance, further fed culture and literature.

Unlike most of my high school classmates, and friends who took up nursing and other degrees that would ensure them financial success in the future, I plan to climb from my humanities technology to literature. Thanks to my lack of understanding and quick investment, I decided to take up literature and creative writing in college. My parents have their own simple reasons. Then, I joined TheFILLARI, our university's student publication. And it was truly a life-changing decision.

It was in TheFILLARI that I experienced my rebirth. It is in the beginning I was apathetic and indifferent to social issues. I became more open and willing to be one of the few who struggle for change. I met students who were ready to help me follow students to become conscious of what was going on outside the university gates. Literature took on a whole new meaning for me. It was no longer just a collection of words for informal stories but a force to reckon with. Literature became a driving force on agent of change.

The craft of our publication knew this what we are doing has the potential to make a difference. What better way to help society than to help future humanitarians, engineers and doctors to become more conscious of their role and their duties? Maybe because we are young and idealistic, our goals don't seem impossible. But then, again surprising Filipino society are impossible.

Being part of something dedicated to the service of the student body and the community helped me gain confidence in myself. It was in TheFILLARI that I started becoming a true feminist, a man for others. And it was because of the experience in Blind literature and culture that I decided to change honors mathematics.

Being a member of the staff of our student publication opened my eyes and lead to a whole new world filled with great students, writers and poets. I became obsessed with literature and culture and I decided it was the only I would pursue. I could have finished my course and looked for greener pastures abroad. I could have been a math professor, accountant, engineer or doctor. But I chose to stay. In a way don't have no plans of leaving. You see, I love Blind so much that I cannot even bear to leave seven years for just a few days.

My professor to contribute years once asked me if I wanted to go to graduate school. I answered in the negative. He looked confused and asked me why. I told him that I wanted to make a difference. Now I have decided to pursue a teacher.

Growing from a family of medical professionals and teachers, I have no problem with joining the teaching profession. My mother is a teacher, and to see them of my sister, I have always had the utmost respect for the profession. I love it. The only flaw we see paid well, our educators have opted to stay and teach other youth. And it is because of their dignity and dedication to love I have decided to join their ranks someday.

The only catch is that my parents may not approve of my decision. I know they want me to finish my two courses first. But if I do that, I may not have the same opportunities to pursue my dreams. You bring a something I like I know I would be good at. Besides, it doesn't something I love more than teaching, it's nothing.

I have thought up plans up with my parents. I am afraid that my dreams would be dashed. Funny how life seems to offer you so much, and then proclaim you that they cannot be yours at all.

I have not secured a scholarship from Fr. Bulmer. Part of the fun of being a student is looking for ways to finance your newspaper. In recent years, there has been a boom of organized school newspapers. My friends and I even plans put up our own publication within the next 10 years.

My girlfriend is also a lover of books and a great writer who is home to Tagalog. She has made me realize the importance of writing in your language. Maybe someday we can write a book together.

I hope and pray that my dreams are not for unknowingly from me. Right now, I want to follow my dreams and at the same time make it worthwhile by doing the Filipinos a good service to my country.

I don't want to join the exodus of talented and skilled Filipinos youth. For many the only choice to go after finishing college is Manila. I don't want to be another "lapsed and good" me.

We've heard/ think it has so much to offer. We have to way. It will be difficult at time, but it is the right thing to do.

I plan to study and master all the Filipino literature. Filipino Negro, Pamela, Bienvenido and many more. I want to a tool to the core and meet the epic Filipino heroes. I want to marvel at the humor and wit for myself when happens to Filipino. I want to encourage young Filipinos writers and artists to come out and show the world what our region has to offer.

I want to spend my whole life teaching young minds about the beauty of Filipino culture. I want to grow old doing same. Being good for my beloved young. I want to explore every words and nuances of our land and learn to share Filipino history and history I want to travel back in time and understand my roots. I want to open the eyes of the youth to the reality of Filipino culture. I want to make a true difference.

Alec Francis A. Xenios, 20, is a 4th year Interruption Technology student at the Institute of Mass Communication and a staff member of TheFILLARI.

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Central poll issue ignored

THE CENTRAL PROBLEM OPPRESSING Filipinos today was not raised as all during the last election campaign. The political debate—if debate it may be called—focused mainly on corruption, the illegitimacy of the Arroyo regime, and, up to a certain point, human rights. Ignored completely was the debt condition imposed upon the Philippines by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund for the benefit of transnational corporations. To be, even the minor parties—Kampi, Ak, and the party-list groups—did not touch on the problem.

What are the IMF-WB debt conditions and why do they lead down the byways of workers, peasants and urban poor, who constitute more than 80 percent of Filipinos, to worsening poverty and hunger?

The IMF-WB debt conditions mandate the Philippine government, as a debtor, to adopt and pursue policies and programs designated to liberalize, deregulate and privatize the economy. If I have my facts—including the Constitution—which stand in the way of liberalization, deregulation, privatization and free playing field, these laws are to be repealed, amended, modified, or repealed, as have happened (which the help of the Supreme Court) in relation to mining, water, power, oil and other natural resources as well as the telecommunication potential for the benefit of Filipinos.

The "booming economy" President Macapagal-Arroyo and her perceptive engineers keep on talking about, featuring an alleged 8.8-percent economic growth for the first quarter of 2007, is hardly this, if left at all, to most Filipinos because the path of growth confined by liberalization, deregulation, privatization and level playing field tends directly in the pockets of transnational corporations.

If the economy is growing at 8.8 percent, why can't it afford to significantly adjust upward the minimum wage or grant wage increases to government employees? Why have citizens against property income practically unremittable? Why has the assistance of unemployment and hunger worsened? Why do Filipinos, even including professionals, leave home and loved ones for employment overseas? Why has the country become so unsafe, such that thousands of armed policemen and soldiers had to be deployed in school premises during the opening of classes, as they were earlier deployed in polling places? The only sign of prosperity was a recent pilgrimage to Rome and Portugal in which the President was accompanied by her fellow alumnae from Assumption College.

The source of problems oppressing Filipinos today did not figure at all during the last election campaign because it was not a concern on what would govern our country to prosper and elevate the Filipino national interest. It was essentially a contest between the administration and the opposition for the "privilege" of governing this country according to the IMF-WB debt conditions.

When will Filipinos wake up, unite and act?

—GREGORIO GAY DUCHINI,
Unit 305 Urdaneta Square Condominium,
141 16th Avenue, Cubao, Quezon City

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A library in Gagalangin

BACK IN THE LATE 1960s, I USED TO FREquent the library on Benavidez corner Velasco Streets here in Sagalangin, Tondo, Manila. I moved farther south of Metro Manila in the late '80s. I returned in the '90s and the library was no longer there.

I hope a new library will be built here in Gagalangin so the young will be in a place feeding their minds with knowledge, instead of spending money and time playing computer games. I am appealing to the newly elected officials of this district to do something about the rebuilding of a library in the heart of Gagalangin.

I am willing to donate books, and I volunteer to solicit books from friends and colleagues just to help put up this library again.

—EDITH O. DAPILL
rapi1104@yahoo.com

Gov't agencies should be open to complaints

I WAS ASSURED BY THE CIVIL SERVICE Commission's prompt reply to my letter, "Slow and late response from CSC," (Inquirer, 5/12/07) which I wrote my complaints, it was to air a grievance, hoping to initiate reform. Certainly, I did not consider myself to blame for any predicament.

The fact of the matter is that the session for reconsideration which the CSC resolved on Aug. 15, 2006 complied with all the documentary requirements. It was denied only on March 26, 2007, and the denial was received by me on April 11, 2007—after eight long months. That the MR was sworn and academic upon its receipt made the long wait all the more unreasonable.

Could I be wrong to think it would have been more considerate if the denial of the answer had been relayed sooner?

I can accept that exhausting me in the long wait was the last thing on the CSC's mind. But the CSC should likewise accept that there must be a legal remedy and recourse for me if the same thing does not happen again. If not, I regret that my efforts to speak out was in vain and, sourly, I rest my case.

I pray that all government agencies will keep an open mind when faced with complaints like mine. The hope of every citizen is improved public service. But unless those who can do something about it truly listen, this can never be achieved. It would do our country no good if disenchanted citizens are resigned and cut down to size by discouraging responses from our public servants.

—CARMELITA S. HUI,
Casa 62, s/o Alex Amora,
32 N. Zamora St., 1470M, QC

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- **Corporate Social Responsibility - the Flying V Way!** Flying V through its thrust of alleviating poverty, supports various community based Housing, Livelihood, and Values Formation Projects:
  - To date, over 300 scholars from all over the country have benefitted from the Flying V Scholarship Program.
  - The Flying V subsidized Housing program, open to low income families at no downpayment and low monthly amortization, enabled dozens of families to own a house & lot located at the heart of Rizal.
  - The Flying V Livelihood programs focus on skills training seminars that give the individual the opportunity to develop skills for job opportunities and entrepreneurship.
  - The Flying V Values Formation program is embodied in a free school for children 2 1/2 to 6 years old in Rizal and La Union province, a step up from their humble beginnings.

SUGOD, mga kapatid! Umaandar na ang rebolusyon ng enerhiya!

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Tech-voc tops agenda of DepEd

From page A1

pointed out.

Mainly to blame, Lapus said, was the scrapping of the National College Entrance Examination (NCEE), which "led us a few flaws in tertiary education."

"Pupils' education opened its gates without screening. Before, to be a teacher, you had to score at least 50 percent in the NCEE. That's game over, except in schools with competitive entrance exams," he said.

Lapus cited the results of the year's National Career Assessment Examination or NCAE, where of the 1.3 million high school seniors or seniors, 711,326 showed a high aptitude for tech-voc programs, while only 49,046 showed a high aptitude for college.

He also pointed out that one of the 2.6 million unemployed Filipinos, some 1.1 million were college graduates.

"But at the same time, we have 400,000 tech-voc jobs available in the local market, but we cannot fill the numerous because our tech-voc graduates lack the required tech-voc skills," Lapus said.

According to the former Tarlac congressman and Landlords president and CEO, "it doesn't take a genius to conclude that there is something askew in our current state of affairs."

"But is why he said, the "improvement of [the] current final tracks the "lockstep" of pushing for technical-vocational education in public high schools.

The DepEd has started linking up with industries, head of the DepEd's tech-voc division. Of these, the DepEd "will pilot only 120," Dr. Lumen said.

LAPUS

3 types

There are three types of tech-voc high schools—arts-and-trade, agriculture and fisheries.

"Arts and trade has 11 fields of specialization; Agriculture has four while fisheries has three," Dr. Lumen said. The fields will be those on equipment, tools, machines and the like.

According to DepEd computations, the tech-voc program will require at least P200 billion. And 2007 is the fourth year of the re-designed tech-voc program.

Starting next year, tech-voc high school graduates will be getting NC I, short for National certification on their skills, from the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority or Tesda, in addition to the usual high school diploma.

Dr. Lumen also stressed the need to "extend our tech-voc interventions." Expanding their skills is crucial, he said, like the DepEd's ongoing efforts in extending those building English, Science and Mathematics subjects who are not specialists in those fields.

Training programs

The DepEd training programs some in three forms.

One is through degree programs in cooperable institutions like Normal de Manila University, La Salle and the University of the Philippines. Another is in-service-based courses, like training in regional centers resulting in a minor degree, and lastly, through mass-based seminar-workshops dwelling on content and pedagogy," said a DepEd report.

To date, more than 138,000 public school teachers have been trained in the three given up subjects, "south of others still waiting for refresher courses, or a total of 402,506 teachers."

The DepEd has also teamed up with the business process outsourcing firm Convergys in launching the 2007 Oral Communications in English training program for 300 selected public school math teachers.

The intensive two-day program, which runs from February to December, will utilize individual and communication modules. Graduates of the program will be required to conduct similar workshops to at least 30 of their co-teachers using the same materials provided from during the workshop.

Cyber education

Another DepEd reform initiative is cyber education.

The department is very much aware of the innovations in education technology, Lapus said, noting that it just could use school three right now.

The program will need at least P200 million in initial capital investments, he said. "So we have money for all these bridges as well as the South Rail and South Rail projects! Why can't we put somewhere education?"

"It's worth it," Lapus told the business. "We will save on teacher training which costs hundreds of millions of pesos. We will save on textbooks which cost billions of pesos and a lot more."

With a budget allocation of P200 million, the DepEd this year will provide more computer laboratories to public high schools. Also in it's cards for it is the computerization program for public elementary schools.

To date, at least 3,115 public high schools have been provided with computer labs. Another 1,007 secondary schools have been given Internet connection.

And with the help of Gearing Up Internet Literacy and Access for Students or Kids and the agency's other private sector partners, the DepEd aims to provide Internet connectivity to public secondary schools by 2010.

That, Lapus said, is very doable.

JAPAN Agoncillo Ramay, one of the great, great grandchildren of revolutionary Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo, looks at The first Philippine flag encased in glass at the Aguinaldo Museum in Baguio City

Defy work holiday . . .

From page A1

out of the country's first President, said President Macapagal-Arroyo issued Proclamation No. 1211 in January admitting the observance of her own father, the late President Diosdado Macapagal, that June 12 was Independence Day instead of July 4.

Proclamation No. 1211 makes holidays flexible to create long weekends.

Former and his niece, Anna, argue that the Emilio Aguinaldo Museum here, which preserves the original flag that their great grandfather unfurled in Kawit, Cavite, on June 12, 1898.

Former said he had been calling bank managers and employers, asking them to defy Proclamation No. 1211 by giving workers the day off today.

"All Filipinos, rich or poor—please let social status stay flamboyant—all businessmen, all employers, please ask your workers and bosses to work [today]," he told reporters.

He said the act of civil disobedience would honor the legacy of his former's father.

Former said the elder Macapagal issued his general orders (primary from the United States in 1964 when he decided to change the day Aguinaldo declared independence from Spain, instead of July 4.

It was on July 4, 1946, that the United States "granted" the Philippines its independence. As a result of the elder Macapagal's proclamation, July 4 was downgraded to Philippine-American Friendship Day.

Father won't appease

"Filipino nationalists are very, very happy about the annual July 4 holiday with its bands and parades and in 1964, they grovelled upon President Diosdado Macapagal to change the dates. In between, the of the National Historical Institute and Municipal are trying to boost his commanding with the nationalists and was looking for something to really be proud of that was a reaction of with our revolutionary ideals ry, rather than our colonial ideals ry," wrote Alex Retana, an American journalist, in an essay published by a California based Filipino website.

"Macapagal moved the date to June 12 which, like our own Independence Day commemorates a declaration of independence—that of Filipino revolutionaries, who in 1898 proclaimed their freedom from Spain. The big difference is that the Filipino declaration didn't lead to independence," Retana said.

"The date not necessarily a

CBCP: Let's honor . . .

From page A1

years and wholesale 'buy and sale' of votes, there were still those who refused to be cowed by the dictatorship of money. Their small stories are worth noting down on Independence Day."

A teacher, Nelia Bunag, 60, is still another. Jamaica Ramos, died in a fire on May 15 after the school she co-founded in Tayasan, Batangas, during the evening of rites.

Another teacher, school district supervisor Rhea Chiaocheng who requested showing in the Bagumbayan provincial election, was shot dead on Saturday. (Story related story on Page A2.)

Legislators said in his message that the senseless killings, industry disappearances, and an

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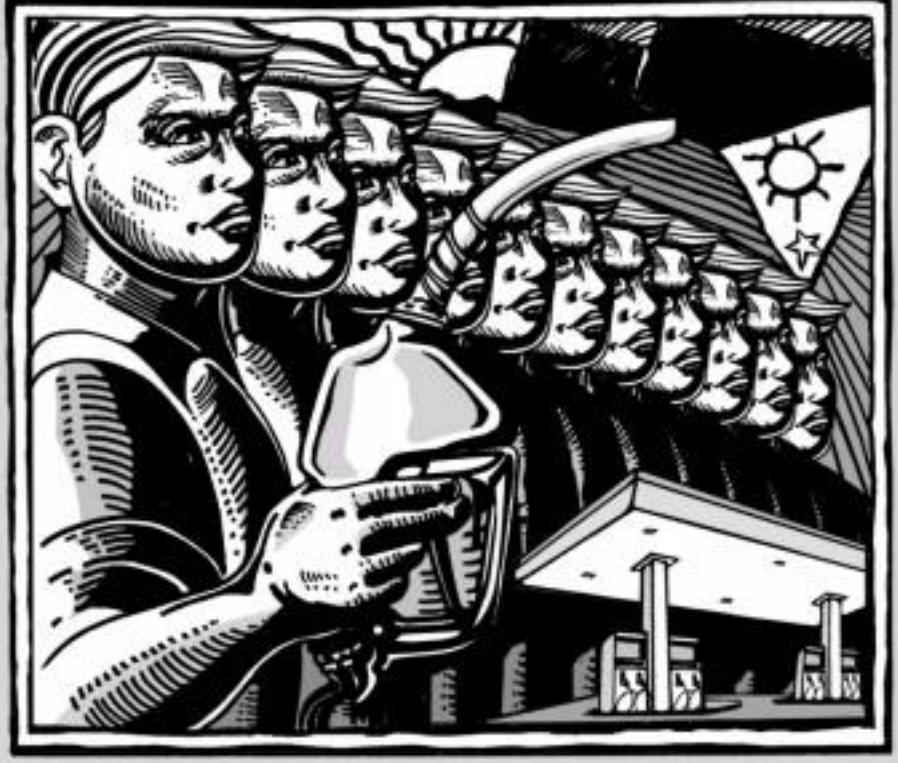

Walang urungan ito.

Formed in 1997 during the deregulation of the oil industry, the Independent Philippine Petroleum Companies Association (IPPCA) is composed mainly of oil players other than the three oil industry giants. But given the trend in the global market for alternative fuels, and with full implementation of the BIOFUELS Act of 2006, the IPPCA members' 25% share of the market will undoubtedly increase, fuelled by awareness and acceptance of the benefits of alternative fuels such as Biodiesel and Ethanol E-10. IPPCA has actively upheld concerns of its members on vital energy issues, notably:

- Pioneered the campaign for consumption and production of alternative fuels such as Biodiesel and Ethanol E-10;
- Supported the early execution of the Clean Air Act in eliminating the lead content in gasoline;
- Spearheaded the movement towards legislation on the use of Biofuels, resulting in the enactment of the Biofuels Act of 2006.

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Across the NATION

Sugar lands part of CARP, SC rules

By Cura PiGomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—THE SUPREME COURT HAS dismissed a petition questioning the manner in which land reform is being implemented in sugarcane lands for lack of merit.

The petitioners include the Confederation of Sugar Producers Associations Inc., National Federation of Sugarcane Planters Inc., United Sugar Producers Federation of the Philippines Inc., Pinoy Federation of Sugarcane Farmers Inc., Hoo Farmers Holding Corp., National Congress of Unions in the Sugar Industry of the Philippines and the League of Municipalities of the Philippines-Negros Occidental Chapter.

The SC also ruled that the reclassified sugar lands in the coverage of RA6657 in the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law deform as to the wisdom of an act of Congress, beyond the ambit of judicial review, in its decision promulgated May 10 and posted in its website yesterday.

The petition for prohibition and mandamus with prayer for the issuance of a writ of preliminary injunction or temporary restraining order wanted to stop president of the Republic, secretary of Agrarian Reform (DAR), the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) and the Land Registration Authority (LRA).

The petitioners asked the SC to declare that the LBP itself has forfeited any right to collect payment for the lands subject to the compulsory acquisition without fulfilling the necessary compensation procedure and ordering payment to the petitioners of Rule 67 of the Rules of Court and outlawed the application of confiscatory and unjust provisions of the regular farm workers.

The petitioners also asked the High Court to nullify paragraphs (a) and (b) of Section 26(LEO) of Republic Act No. (RA) 6657, for being unconstitutional.

The Land Bank, however, urged the SC to dismiss the petition since it has already applied the compulsory acquisition of RA 6657 in its ruling on the Association of Small Landowners case.

The LBP said that the petitioners want to delay the acquisition of lands governed by RA 6657 by invoking that the titles to their described parcels until the landowners until the issue of just compensation is finally adjudicated by the courts.

On the petitioners' argument that it may have been "erroneous" for Congress to have included in the coverage of RA 6657 as it is more efficiently and more economically produced by organized, mechanized, plantation-type agriculture than by small, "peasant-based" farms, or redistributed farms, the LBP said the wisdom of acquiring sugar lands for agrarian reform is beyond the ambit of judicial review.

Without any amendment to RA 6657 regarding coverage, there could be no basis for penalizing the DAR and the Land Bank from acquiring sugar lands, for purposes of agrarian reform, it added.

In the case filed by the Association of Small Landowners, the Supreme Court had upheld the validity of Section 10 of RA 6657, including paragraphs (d), (e) and (f), which set forth the manner of acquisition of private agricultural lands and determination of just compensation, the LBP pointed out.

The SC and sugar planters failed to show that they belong to a different class and are entitled to a different treatment.

Ruling [in accordance with] in the power of the Court to pass upon or look into the wisdom of the statutes by Congress of the sugar lands in the coverage of the 6657, it ruled.

'... sugar planters failed to show that they ... are entitled to a different treatment.'

The SC said the petitioners failed to show that they belong to a different class and are entitled to a different treatment.

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AN UNIDENTIFIED member of Task Force Magahat walks as she leaves indoors the violent death of two members and wounding of others. Violence erupted anew last June 9 in Hacienda Velez-Malaga in La Castellana, Negros Occidental as like-minded farmers claiming their lands awarded to them by the Department of Agrarian Reform. JOVEN CAGUIOA

CARP farmers' 'death warrant,' says KMP

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO —Claiming from the Mendiola massacre to the abduction of agricultural Jonas Burgos, the Congresbanayan Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) has worked as a "death warrant" to many farmers struggling to own lands in the last 19 years, and deserves no more extension, member of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas said.

KMP Secretary General Danilo Ramos said that it's given a few more years to meet the balance of 772,000 hectares, the program would intensify the killings and elaborate on farmers.

Endless killings

"In many localities have become the cornerstone cover for landlords to maintain their vast land holdings and even to expand them further," Ramos said in a statement here on Monday, "Many CARP's exemption thresholds of hectares have been killed smuggling for genuine land reform."

He said that since the massacre of 13 farmers and the succeeding of more than 70 others on Mendiola Bridge [users Chino Roces Bridge] in Manila on Jan. 22, 1987, or a year before the CARP was enacted into law, the killings of farmers caught in land disputes have risen no end.

Ramos said that he said, are to Hacienda Luisita in Tarlac, Hacienda Mike Mabaga in Bugallon (Pandacan) and Hacienda Looc in Batangas.

"In fact, the abductions of Jonas Burgos, Marilou Gallegos and Eden Empeño (in Bulacan) were the result of their advocacy for the fair distribution of land to the tiller and their consequent stand against Hacienda Biyanggalupe," he said.

Extrajudicial killings of activists, many of them farmers, have totaled more than 800 since 2001, according to human rights watchdogs.

Recent relief case studies on how landlords have derailed the implementation of CARP.

Farmers' land

In Occidental Mindoro, landowner Rodolfo Fortuna filed massive charges against Rep. Jose Tiu, farmer and co-farmers, who have been called the "Mamburao 6" who allegedly killed his son, Michael and Paz Quijano.

Ramos said landowners made up the charges to force farmers out of his 644-hectare estate in Tamaraw, Mamburao, Occidental Mindoro.

The land, mortgaged by Quijano, had been recovered by the Land Bank and was found for distribution through the CARP during the Aquino administration.

Exempted from the program coverage in 1992, the land, according to a Department of Agrarian Reform ruling in 1997, belonged to the farmers.

In Silang, Cavite, the fourth generation of farmers in Hacienda Tarlac and Land Tenure Improvement Program (LTIP) is working to oust the farmers of the late Pete Benitez Agamalde, Ramos said. Enforcers, he said, were used to harass the farmers and their leaders.

Ramos said the program was comprehensive while it came to exemptions, although the CARP law, Republic Act 6657, and its Section 10 ensure that farmers/workers are qualified to own land, farmers under the Presidential Farmers Agricultural Laborer Organization (Pambuko) filing lands inside the Central Mindanao University have yet to benefit from such provision.

The DAR adjudication board has favored the Pambuko but it has reduced the scope of the land to 400 hectares. Two farmers were shot when they processed CARP parcels from clustering that began in 1992. Farmers said the Supreme Court have decided to disqualify the farmers as CARP beneficiaries.

"If the government truth could not give lands that it owns like those in the CLOU because of its distorted interpretation of Section 10, can farmers still expect the government to put an end to the concentration of lands in the hands of private owners?" Ramos asked.

Subservience

According to him, seven presidents had shown that the DAR was "subservient" to the interests of landowners to convert the use of lands from agricultural to residential, commercial or industrial.

"Land-use conversion is another factor in taking away lands from farmers," he said, adding that Section 65 of RA 6657 allows this.

Farmers in Hacienda Luisa were in the predicament, still reserving their right to own or till 6,000 hectares, he said. Seven farmers had been killed as they insisted on their rights to stay, he said. Renato Reyes, Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) secretary general, said.

Igorot group films forgotten heroes of the North

COMMUNICATIONS expert Barry Lontoc, amateur actor Jun Titancio Tumpang and Dr. Ryan Gumtang have been filming documentaries. Their first project involved a documentary on the 66th Infantry Brigade of Bukidnon and Bontoc who liberated Baguio and Benguet from Japanese occupation at the end of World War II. VINCENT CABREZA

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—THEY WON'T FIND the Philippine flag laid out on the landscape of Ifugao nor medal-winning heroes Manny "Wanrado" Carunungan and Mestor Cecilio today. Indigenous demos Dec.

The documentaries are made out of quite.

Five to this genre focus on all the stories of their history predecessors, much less obscure members of the Indigenous in Igorot country who helped Gen. Douglas MacArthur escape to Australia when the Philippine-American war broke out in 1899.

Ignorance, however, is no longer an excuse, at least for a group of young Igorots determined to unearth stories about the legacy of their region's colonial and historical heroes.

Dr. Ryan Gumtang and Barry Lontoc have formed Kawanah Mont Inc. to share historical accounts of Igorot heroism for this generation of Cordilleras.

Former Mayor has completed filming a documentary of the K. Services of Baguio and Benguet, using amateur actors, aged between 12 and 35 years old.

The film focuses on war accounts from Ifugao, Kalinga-Apayao and Mt. Province groups who stayed here to fight in spite of the fact that they were ordered to surrender. They converted Camp John Hay into the Philippine headquarters during World War II.

Many of the actors are great, great grandchildren of these veterans, who were teenagers when they fought the Japanese.

Sections of the film are posted on YouTube.com the web to see passed enthusiastically by Cordillera bloggers to encourage them.

Gumtang said he hoped to get the film distributed to schools, or even through the pirated DVD network to train readers.

He said he was also using the same strategy used by Raymund Sol who toured the independent's produced movie, "Sakay," around the country alongside his actors.

Barrio is to self-sponsored effort. They lost lot of money to pay rent, promotions, and Lontoc, a former researcher of the Philippine Rice Institute.

He said the only condition does not help the cost for Igorot heroes, who are too far off the image of mainstream society to every one of their whose they processed CARP parcels from clustering that began in 1992. Farmers said the Supreme Court have decided to disqualify the farmers as CARP beneficiaries.

"If the government truth could not give lands that it owns like those in the CLOU because of its distorted interpretation of Section 10, can farmers still expect the government to put an end to the concentration of lands in the hands of private owners?" Ramos asked.

Subservience

According to him, seven presidents had shown that the DAR was "subservient" to the interests of landowners to convert the use of lands from agricultural to residential, commercial or industrial.

"Land-use conversion is another factor in taking away lands from farmers," he said, adding that Section 65 of RA 6657 allows this.

Farmers in Hacienda Luisa were in the predicament, still reserving their right to own or till 6,000 hectares, he said. Seven farmers had been killed as they insisted on their rights to stay, he said. Renato Reyes, Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) secretary general, said.

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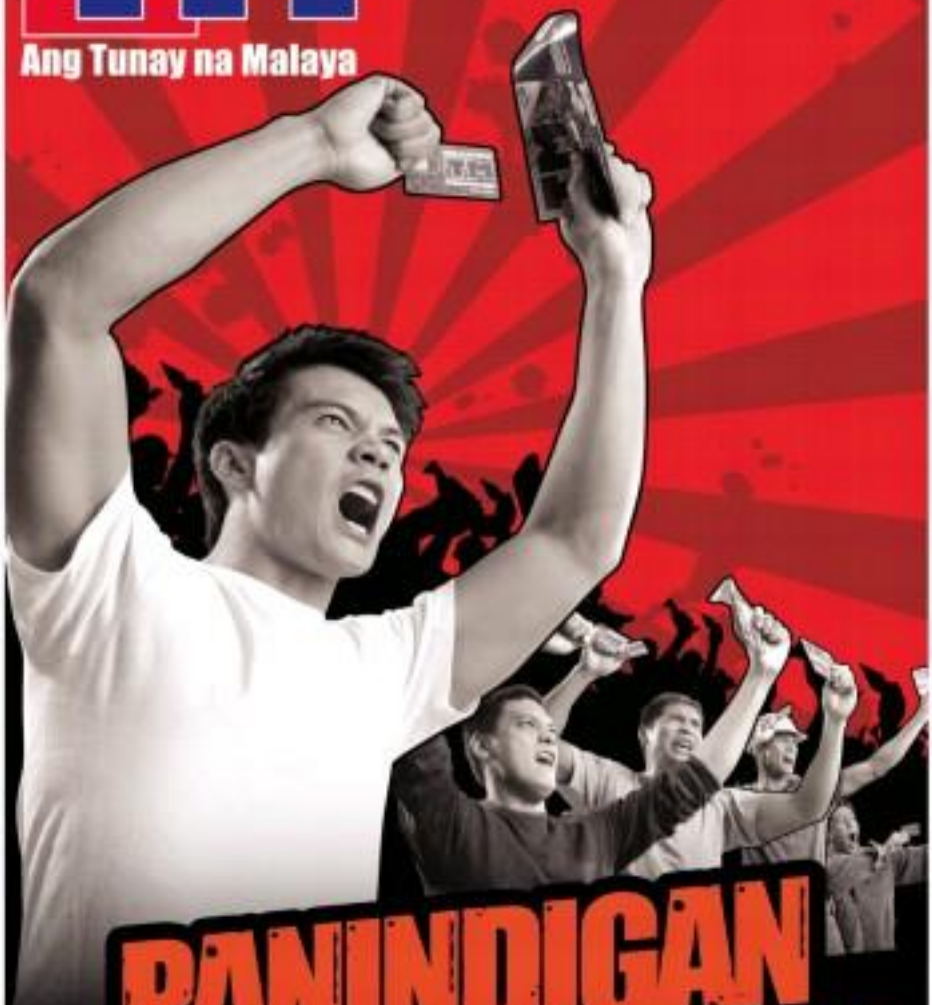

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Caretaker loses life saving pet dog

By Nancy C. Carvajal

A FISHPOND CARETAKER DROWNED WHEN HE tried to save his faithful companion, a dog, which fell into a fishpond at around midnight yesterday in Malabon City.

PO2 Edsel de la Paz of the Malabon City police identified the victim as Richard Ando, 28.

His dog, Brownie, a mongrel, was able to safely swim to the side of the pond.

"They were always together. Richard always brought the dog with him especially when he was guarding the fishpond," said Aty Regala, Ando's friend who later found his body.

According to the police, the incident happened at the fishpond located on Dampalit St., Dampalit, Bayanihan in Malabon City.

The police said that several hours earlier, the victim had a few drinks with his friends in a small hut located in the center of the fishpond. To get to the hut, one has to ride a small boat (banca).

At around midnight, Ando, with Brownie by his side, brought back his station to the other side of the fishpond but found the small banca...

Ando and his pet then boarded the banca back to the hut when the animal suddenly panicked and jumped into the pond which is about 10 feet deep.

"The owner jumped into the water and never surfaced, but the dog was able to swim toward one of the fishpond dikes," De la Paz, the police investigator, said.

Upon hearing the commotion, Ando's friends, who were still in the area, immediately jumped in to the pond to look for him.

"But because it was dark and the water was not clear, they could not exactly see where he was," the police said.

Policemen and Ando's friends searched the pond and the area by area for at least two hours before Aty Regala found the victim's body. Ando was brought to the Dagumanan ng Bayan ng Malabon where he was declared dead on arrival by attending physicians.

His friends said that Ando knew how to swim, but his reflexes were probably affected by the few drinks he had earlier.

HAVE'S Ensign Armand Pamejon holding one master's degree holder.

Hope in heart, diploma in hand for jailed ensign

By CJ Yap and Jeannette I. Andrade

NO ONE CAN ACCUSE ENSIGN ARMAND Pamejon, a Navy junior officer charged with taking part in the failed Oakwood mutiny of 2003, of being unpredictable while in detention.

Instead of allowing himself to stagnate out of boredom, he added to the time in a different way: by studying for exams and doing his homework.

Last Saturday, Pamejon received his master's diploma in Information Systems during the 13th commencement exercises of the University of the Philippines Open University—under heavy security.

"I am extremely happy," the 27-year-old officer said after posing for congratulatory photos with his diploma. He added, however, that his master's degree was not the end of his academic career. "This is life-long learning. Since we were detained, we have been learning. This will continue into the future and we will keep on studying because only through education will we succeed as Filipinos," Pamejon said.

"He did not want to waste his time. Even inside, he still set his standards; he found a way for self-improvement," his lawyer Wilfredo Carreon Jr. said.

Pamejon used to take part in handicraft projects with fellow detainees, but this soon proved boring for the highly trained member of the Navy's Special Warfare Group.

Three years after enrolling online at the UP Open University, Pamejon, a graduate of the Philippine Military Academy batch 2001, finally finished his postgraduate degree at the state university. The program does not require classroom attendance. Instead, students communicate with their professors via e-mail.

"Sometimes, his professors visited him in the brig," Lacsina said.

Judge Oscar Pimentel of the Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 148, who is hearing the Magdalo soldier's coup d'etat case, allowed him to attend Saturday's commencement exercises held at the UP Film Center on the Diliman campus.

Carreño said Pamejon, who also happens to be his nephew, had jumped at the chance of earning a master's degree upon learning

HOPE/A22

Jimenez to file extort raps vs lawyer

By DJ Yap

FORMER MANILA REP MARK JIMENEZ is set to file criminal charges against the lawyer of his estranged wife, Caroline Castañeda, for allegedly trying to extort $1.5 million from him.

Jimenez's lawyer, Frank Chavez, said they would file an indictment complaint against Lorna Kapunan on the strength of an affidavit executed by lawyer Homer Demetrios, a former presidential legal adviser.

Chavez said the extortion case would be separate from the estafa charges Jimenez had lodged against Castañeda and members of her family, and would be included in the disbarment case against Kapunan.

"We will file the case sometime this week," he told the Inquirer by phone.

Last week, Demetrios said Kapunan had asked Jimenez to pay the sum as recharge for dropping all the suits and complaints.

In an affidavit she executed yesterday, Demetrios recalled meeting with Jimenez and Kapunan on May 29, in which Kapunan allegedly named the $1.5-million "condition" for her client's reconciliation with the former Manila congressman.

She said she remembered Kapunan telling Glenn, the amount was for Jimenez's son, Miguelito. But Jimenez did not agree to the condition, Demetrios said.

Kapunan later denied Demetrios's allegations, saying she was misquoted, adding that Demetrios was "never close" to Castañeda.

But Demetrios said she never claimed to be close to Castañeda.

The lawyer clarified that it was Jimenez who had asked her to help mediate in the reconciliation attempt.

"I do not owe Mrs. Carol Jimenez or Atty. Lorna Kapunan the duty of confidentiality, trust and confidence since I am neither the lawyer of Mr. Mark Jimenez nor of Mrs. Carol Jimenez," Demetrios said.

GOODBYE TO SUMMER
With Boracay once in the afternoon becoming an almost daily occurrence, the rainy season can't be far behind. At Manoc-Manoc in Boracay (formerly Mansalay), Rizal, people take advantage of a clear day to enjoy a swim. JOAN BONDOC

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Police ready for I-Day activities in Metro

By Jobi M. Aurelio

ABOUT 5,000 POLICEMEN WILL PROVIDE security to key areas in Metro Manila, especially Rizal Park in the Luneta in Manila, where government officials and other dignitaries will gather for today's 109th Independence Day celebration.

Supt. Rommel Miranda, spokesperson of the National Capital Region Police Office, yesterday said that they were ready for soldiers to be deployed for military groups.

"We received reports that groups will be coming from the University of the Philippines, Espeña and Welcome Rotonda areas and that they will try to converge at Mendiola. But they will not be allowed to stay there," Miranda told the Inquirer over the phone.

Among the other military policemen will be stationed are the Andres Bonifacio Memorial Monument in Caloocan City, Mendiola de los Veteranos de la Revolucion at the North Cemetery, the Pinaglabanan Shrine in San Juan and the Quezon Memorial in Quezon City.

Chief Inspector Miranda is supported to lead the celebration in Caloocan City which will begin at 7 a.m. with the theme "Tumutuloy ang mga Gulong Pag-unlad."

Traffic in the area will be rerouted from 3 a.m. to 12 noon for the program.

All vehicles, except buses, coming from Quezon City and going to Navotas and Bonifacio, must turn right to MacArthur Highway, left to Samson Road, left to Araneta Avenue and right to Rotonda Road.

Buses can take the usual route on Quezon Avenue, turn right to Epifanio de los Santos Avenue.

Vehicles, from Manila to Valenzuela City must turn right on either 5th, 8th or 9th Avenue, then left to R. Serrano, right to Edsa and take the second left turn exit to MacArthur Highway.

Motorists on their way from Manila to Quezon City must turn right to either 5th, 8th or 9th Avenue, left to R. Serrano, and right to Edsa.

In Manila, a stretch of Roxas Boulevard, particularly the area near the Quirino Grandstand, will be closed to traffic.

This includes the northbound and southbound lanes of Roxas Boulevard from Ayala Circle to President Quirino Avenue. If Buses from Roxas Boulevard to Mc. Arthur, Dr. Jose Rizal Avenue, Taft Avenue, Quirino Avenue, Nakpil, Bocobo, Padre Faura, Taft Avenue, Ayala Boulevard, Pedro Gil, Remedios, Adriatico, Malvar, Mabini, Roosevelt, Rizal Avenue, Recto Avenue, Legarda, Lacson, Quezon Boulevard, Nagtahan, Lerma, Magsaysay Boulevard, Aurora Boulevard, Ayala Boulevard, Finance Road.

"Those areas will be closed to vehicles at around 5 a.m. We expect them to be opened later in the morning," Miranda said.

All vehicles travelling southbound on Roxas Boulevard should turn right at P. Burgos Avenue or President Quezon Ave. then left to Taft Ave.

Public utility vehicles on A. Mabini Street should turn right at Padre Gil Street or can go straight and turn right at T.M. Kalaw, then left at Taft Avenue.

All vehicles travelling southbound coming from Del Pan Bridge can use A. Soriano Street, then turn right at Magallanes Drive and make another right at P. Burgos Street to Taft Avenue.

All vehicles coming from Quirino, Mayhi Street or Jones Bridge going south of Manila can take Taft Avenue.

Vehicles coming from Ayala Boulevard can make a left turn to Taft Avenue.

All public utility vehicles coming from Dimasalang, Mayhi Street or Jones Bridge via Riverside Drive, Magallanes Street and A. Soriano Street bound for Pier South can turn at A. Soriano Street, then make a right turn at A. Luna, and left at P. Burgos.

All cargo trucks, trailers, vans and other heavy duty vehicles coming from Road 10 wanting to cross Del Pan Bridge should be diverted to Capulong Street.

All cargo trucks on Osmeña Highway are to make a U-turn on Port Area to Quezon Avenue, straight ahead to Bagumbayan, C.M. Recto, Santos and then cross Jose Abad Santos Street.

Meanwhile, government agencies will set up crafts today at Rizal Park, according to Tourism Secretary Ace Durano.

The Department of Health will hold a clinic and set up a Barkada ng Bayan stall where medications of lower prices can be bought.

The Department of Labor and Employment, on the other hand, will hold a jobs fair. There will also be a Tradefair in Ortigas central that will sell basic commodities at lower prices.

"It will be a meaningful day for the public," Durano said. With Edson C. Tandoc Jr., Nancy C. Carvajal and Tina G. Santos

GETTING READY

A man holds away the Irish collected at a benefit for the Pinpin Lewin Shrine in Quezon City, part of preparations for today's 109th Independence Day celebration. Waiting close here Bonifacio Bonifacio and members of the revolutionary group Katipunan gathered here on August 23, 1896 to tear up their cedulas, which signaled the start of the revolutionary against the Spanish government. (INQUIRER)

Could this be suspect's real name, or yet another alias?

By Kristine L. Alave

DAYLATTER REVEALS ARRESTEE FOR allegedly raping a woman, the man who earlier claimed Richard Gonzales for arrest still the police the true identity although pieces of the puzzle about his past have started to fall into place. Has four police chief Supt. Rodolfo Tuason said.

Tuason said the name of the suspect, who claims to be related to several congressmen, could be Andrew Ng Ty.

The officer said they secured the information from a new complainant, who identified herself only as Jessica, a resident of Caloocan City.

The woman said he is a certain Andrew Ty, whom Rodolfo positively identified as Gonzales, Tuason said.

Based on the description of the suspect, Rodolfo said Ng Ty is a Chinese national who is about 5'6" tall, 160 pounds, has a fair complexion and has a Filipino wife

Dems amenable to reviving immigration bill

WASHINGTON—SENATE DEMOcrats opened the door to reviving the stalled immigration measure on Sunday, calling on Republicans to resolve their internal divisions and produce an agreement on how to move the legislation forward.

With both administration officials and Republican authors of the measure saying they had not given up on the bill, the spokesperson for Sen. Harry Reid of Nevada, the majority leader, said Reid would be willing to try again if Republicans agreed to a defined number of amendments and a time limit on debate.

"If and when Republicans can agree on a limited number of amendments and agree on the need to get this bill passed, Senator Reid is committed to finding room on the Senate schedule as soon as possible," said spokesperson Jim Manley, who said President Bush needed to play a role as well. "The hope is that he can apply enough pressure to provide the votes we need to get the bill out of the Senate."

Reid is scheduled to visit the Capitol on Tuesday for a lunch with Senate Republicans. That meeting will come just days after the immigration proposal, one of his chief domestic priorities, was derailed when an effort to bring a new week debate on a cloture came up far short of the votes needed.

On Sunday, Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutierrez said the administration was "more determined than ever" to push the measure, which has drawn strong opposition from conservatives.

"Walking away from this bill means that we are comfortable with the status quo," Gutierrez said on "Late Edition" on CNN. "And I think that's a big mistake."

The Senate effort on immigration collapsed Thursday night when Reid pulled the bill after Republicans could not agree among themselves on what amendments they wanted debated in exchange for moving it. Until now, Republican supporters of the bill primarily opponents to block a final vote, saying they needed more time.

Sen. Jon Kyl of Arizona, one of the main Republican proponents of the measure, suggested Sunday that he was running out of patience with some of his colleagues and was prepared to override their objections if there was not progress soon on an agreement. AFP

Sanctions not working on Burma—Asean chief

KUALA LUMPUR—A DECADE OF economic sanctions has failed to push military-ruled Burma toward democracy, and nations have to find another way to engage the country, a top Southeast Asian official said Monday.

The United States and the European Union earlier this year tightened sanctions against Burma (also known as Myanmar) over rights violations, including the continued detention of pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

But the secretary general of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), Ong Keng Yong, said sanctions were not working since member Burma was largely immune to them.

"These kinds of sanctions and isolation do not work. They are happy being isolated because they are left alone to do whatever they want to do," Ong told reporters.

"What we are saying is perhaps we should look at some other ways of doing it, instead of just dumping everything on Myanmar."

Burma's junta extended Aung San Suu Kyi's house arrest by another year late last month, prompting condemnation from the United States, the United Nations and European and Asian nations.

The 61-year-old Nobel peace laureate has spent more than a decade confined to her home. Her party won a landslide victory in 1990 elections but the junta never allowed it to take office.

"Even if you poll our everybody, economic sanctions, from Burma, they are not going to collapse simply because their (sanctions) will be ready to sustain them," Ong said in apparent reference to China and India.

China and India have been criticized for keeping silent over Burma's rights abuses. AFP

FOR THE BIG BIRD
Li Dong transports a giant bird cage in Shenyang, Liaoning province in China on June 11. Li spent six months making the bird cage which measures 13 meters in height and 13 meters in diameter, according to local media. REUTERS

Putin seeks alternative to IMF, WTO

ST. PETERSBURG, RUSSIA—PRESIDENT Vladimir V. Putin of Russia called Sunday for a new global economic framework that would play down the role of institutions like the International Monetary Fund and the World Trade Organization and instead emphasize regional alliances.

Such a system, he said, would reflect the rising power of emerging market economies like Russia, China, India and Brazil.

Putin, speaking at a business forum attended by international executives, said advanced industrial economies were dominating the institutions of world trade in an "unfavorable" manner, even as their share of global wealth was diminishing.

The world needs a "new architecture of international economic relations based on trust and mutually beneficial integration," he said. "Today protectionism, which the WTO is meant to fight, often comes from developed economies."

Putin said that more than 60 percent of the world's output was produced outside the G-7 countries: the United States, Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and Canada.

Goldman Sachs has predicted that by 2050, Brazil, Russia, India and China will be the world's dominant economies.

Putin's critique of Western economic institutions came as Russia is seeking membership in the WTO, the Geneva-based forum for world economic disputes. WTO members have criticized Russia for allowing the pirating of intellectual property, among other violations of trade rules.

The Russian leader's ideas received a lukewarm response from the foreign officials in attendance. AFP

Fatah man thrown off roof of 18-story building

GAZA CITY—A MEMBER OF THE Palestinian Fatah movement was thrown off the roof of an 18-story building on Sunday amid a new spate of deadly clashes between rival factions across Gaza, as Israel vowed to continue its strikes against militants.

Mohammed Sourouji was left trapped near the rubble of Gaza's tallest building before he was flung to his death. It was the end of a bruising day fighting for control of the Palestinian movement, which has bewildered his months in a power struggle with president Mahmoud Abbas's Fatah movement.

Three Hamas members were killed and another 20 people were injured in sporadic gunbattles on Sunday between rival factions in the towns of Rafah and Gaza City, where militants exerted dozens of roadblocks and tensions remained high.

The Palestinian interior ministry resumed last Thursday after two weeks of relative calm following a May 19 ceasefire deal with Egyptian mediators, drawing a line under a previous spate of clashes between Fatah and Hamas militants in which more than 50 people died.

The latest round of fighting also came in the midst of a new assault on the Israeli military's air force in the southern Gaza Strip that was launched on May 16 in response to an increase in rocket fire from the territory following a six-month truce.

The day after Palestinian militants launched the first cross-border raid in nearly a year, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert vowed to continue to hit Gaza. AFP

Aeroflot to buy 22 Boeing planes

ST. PETERSBURG, RUSSIA—THE BOEING Co. announced on Saturday a $1.3 billion sale of airplanes to Aeroflot, the Russian national airline, in a deal that defied the souring political relations between the United States and Russia.

Boeing characterized the deal, which ended a high-stakes battle with its European rival, Airbus, as a vote of confidence in the quality of its new 787 Dreamliner airplane. The model is selling well even in countries otherwise loath to patronize American businesses.

Boeing announced the sale at an economic forum that Russian officials said would show that this country remains open for business.

Aeroflot, buying 22 of the airplanes, is the assembled in Everett, Washington, to review its fleet of Boeing and Airbus planes built during the Soviet era.

The sale was a victory for Boeing, based in Chicago, in one of its most politically fraught markets. AFP

New charges against Pakistan judge at center of crisis

ISLAMABAD—PAKISTAN'S GOVERNment has prepared new misconduct charges against the country's top judge, a senior source there said—the latest salvo in a political crisis that has plunged the country into a period of uncertainty and.

Military ruler President Pervez Musharraf suspended Independent Chief Justice Iftikhar Mohammad Chaudhry on March 9 over allegations of nepotism and corruption, urging a wide-spread protest campaign.

Law Minister Wasi Zafar said the government has decided to file cases against Chaudhry, who denies the original allegations and is fighting them in Pakistan's Supreme Court.

"A new reference (complaint) is ready against the chief justice and it will be filed as an appropriate time if needed," Zafar said in a statement late Tuesday.

The statement did not specify what the new charges were but said that they come after Musharraf's chief of staff and two top intelligence officials filed affidavits in the Supreme Court last week.

The affidavits contain fresh allegations that Chaudhry asked spy chiefs to keep tabs on other lawyers and that he wanted Musharraf to abandon parliament and make him head of an interim administration overseeing elections.

"This new reference is being considered thoroughly with different lawyers," Zafar said.

Lawyers for Chaudhry on Friday dismissed the new claims as "hasty rules." The original charges that were filed against the chief justice in March include claims that he used his position to get a senior police job for his son and that he used official cars and staff.

Lawyers for Chaudhry on Friday dismissed the new claims as "hasty rules." The original charges that were filed against the chief justice in March include claims that he used his position to get a senior police job for his son and that he used official cars and staff. AFP

US troops remove concrete rubble from atop wounded soldiers as a bridge destroyed by an apparent suicide vehicle bomber

Iraq bomb blasts kill 14 policemen, destroy bridge

BAGHDAD—A SUICIDE TRUCK bomb killed 14 policemen and wounded 42 at a police station north of Baghdad on Sunday and US forces were hit by another suicide bomber at a checkpoint south of the capital, officials said.

US military spokesperson Lt. Col. Christopher Garver said some US forces had been wounded after the attack on the checkpoint near a major bridge but no other details about the number or nature of casualties were known.

"The checkpoint was damaged by the explosion, as was the bridge," Garver told Reuters.

"The force of the explosion dropped part of the span but it did not fall completely," he said.

The blast hit near al-Iskandariya, done to relieve a suicide truck bomber killed 12 Iraqi soldiers and wounded 30 others in an attack on another checkpoint on Saturday.

In Baghdad's south, police said a police station in the village of Abu Ajeel in Salahuddin province was largely destroyed. Many police were initially trapped under rubble, including one officer who called for help on his mobile phone.

Among the dead were five officers, including two colonels, police in the nearby provincial capital Tikrit said. More than 30 police were among some 50 people wounded.

Sunni Islamist al-Qaeda and other militant groups have stepped up attacks on Iraq's security forces across the country in recent weeks, seeking to undermine a US-backed US-backed security plan in Baghdad and security in general.

The crackdown has driven some militants out of Baghdad into surrounding towns and cities, especially into Diyala province just north of Baghdad but also Salahuddin, where they have launched attacks on civilians and US and Iraqi forces.

The top US general overseeing Operation Iraqi Freedom, said on Sunday the crackdown would only get underway in the "next week or so" with the arrival of the last of five additional US brigades that will bring the total number of US reinforcements in Iraq to 28,000. Reuters

In Asia's biggest slum, multimillion-dollar micro businesses

By Kathleen Mukherjee

MUMBAI—THE FIRST SIGHT anyone flying into India's richest city is a sea of corrugated and patchwork covered roofs beside a narrow, filth-choked river.

It is an aerial view of Dharavi, considered Asia's biggest slum—a warren of tiny, crumbling houses and makeshift businesses that is home to almost a million people.

But strip away its squalid reputation and Dharavi hums a unique entrepreneurial spirit, and multi-million-dollar micro businesses, that breaks all the stereotypes of a slum.

Most encouraging comes dwelling on dead ears, pure children swan-proving through trash, cast scrawny the plastic recycling factory of Noor Ahmed.

Here, half a dozen men use plastic bottle into manky grinders then chop them into tiny pieces and melt them down into multicolored pellets, ready to be cast into, perhaps, cheap plastic toys.

"Dharavi has a huge plastic recycling industry and we are one of the biggest," Ahmed told Reuters sitting in his sun blackened, narrow factory with a tangle of electric wires hanging from the roof.

"There are other industries as well like chemical, pottery soap-making, leather goods, electrical equipment and many more."

Arguably the most prosperous among the world's biggest slums, Dharavi has about 5,000 single-room factories and hundreds of cottage industries that together have a turnover of around $1 billion.

Practically every home here produces something to sell—incense sticks, poppadoms, pickles, soft toys and candles among the many units.

"Most know Dharavi as a slum where poor people live," said Abu Shahid Sajani, president of Dharavi Businessmen's Welfare Association. "Not everyone knows how productive this place is." To Dharavi, besides it the main product, much of which is exported to the Middle East.

"There are over the boundries which unite everything from buckles to brass fittings. Gold jewellers sit next to people making junk-metal ornaments, bakers and potters, dustbins and cobblers, home workers and paint makers and countless other craftsmen.

There is, however, a dark side as well to Dharavi's entrepreneurial spirit—a thriving black market for drugs and fake fashion goods and electronics, run by some of Dharavi's disaffected youth organized into gangs.

Until the end of the 19th century, this area of Bombay (also known as Mumbai) was a mangrove swamp inhabited by fish fishermen before migrants from southern and western India arrived to seek their fortune in the country's financial capital.

Over decades, Dharavi's "disappearin" or slums became the dumping ground for the ubiquitous workers and penniless Bombay newcomers, resulting in the most diverse of neighborhoods in India's most diverse city.

Dharavi had once been on the northern fringes, but an expanding metropolis soon set to reinvent the former slum, eventually surrounding it and earning the area industrial manufacturers real estate gold status worth an estimated $1.8 billion. Reuters

The WORLD

Editor Lucentor B. Cuenca

Bush pushes Kosovo independence

TIRANA—US PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH SUNDAY pushed for the speedy independence of Kosovo from Serbia despite Russia's vehement opposition as he staged a landmark visit to Albania.

Bush, the first US leader to visit Albania—the predominantly Muslim Balkan country—said the days of "endless diplomacy" on Albanian-majority Kosovo were over and signaled that Washington's patience was wearing thin.

"We need to get moving and the end result is independence," Bush said at a joint press conference with Albanian Prime Minister Sali Berisha in the capital, Tirana.

"It was, we're going to have to move. Independence is the goal," he said, adding that he had asked the Albanian prime minister to "work with the leaders in Kosovo to maintain calm during these final stages of Kosovo's final status process." It was the latest move to heighten tensions between Washington and Moscow, which vehemently opposes independence for the breakaway Serbian province.

Ties between the United States and Russia have already cooled over Washington's plan to set up a missile defense shield in eastern Europe which Russia says could [illegible] new missiles will extend risk undermined decision and declare it null and void," a source in the Serbian Cabinet said.

Andrija Mladenovic, spokesperson for Serbian Prime Minister Vojislav Kostunica's party, meanwhile said "all-out mobilization will immediately reject any such proclamation of independence," Beijing reported.

Bush was scheduled to meet later Monday with Bulgarian President Georgi Parvanov and Prime Minister Sergey Stanishev.

Major cogs in the agenda will be Kosovo, rubberstamp a UN-drawn defense shield into Europe and the fate of the Bulgarian nurses on death row in Libya who have contested their conviction for infecting over 400 children with AIDS. AFP

BUSH (left) at a welcoming ceremony in front of the tomb of Unknown Soldier in the Bulgarian capital Sofia on June 11.

Sarkozy's party heads for big legislative win

PARIS—PRESIDENT NICOLAS SARKOZY'S center-right party was on course to win an overwhelming parliamentary majority after the first round of French legislative elections on Sunday, cementing his power to enact changes that he says are needed to rescue France from economic and social malaise.

Sarkozy's party, the Union for a Popular Movement, won 328 [illegible] percent of the vote, according to a final tally by the Interior Ministry. That could give the party and its allies as many as 345 seats in the 577-seat National Assembly after the second-round vote on June 17, pollsters said.

The main opposition, the Socialist Party, received 24.73 percent, meaning that it could lose more than half of its 149 seats, pollsters projected. The result reinforced the disarray on the left since its presidential candidate, Segolene Royal, lost to Sarkozy last month.

Sarkozy won his plans to cut taxes, reform public administration and make it easier to fire employers to hire and/or more workers. AFP

WHERE'S THE CAVIAR!
Alba arriving from Chicago in the early morning and being the rest of the morning to settle in at the quarantine pool. Quinoki, a 6-year-old beluga whale, enjoys an afternoon meal at the Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium in Tacoma, Washington, on June 11.

Afghan leader unharmed in Taliban rocket attack

KABUL—TALIBAN GUERRILLAS made a failed attempt to kill Afghan President Hamid Karzai with a rocket attack on Sunday, narrowly missing a building where he was giving a speech, Taliban and the government said.

Rockets fell several hundred meters from the government building southwest of Kabul and some of the audience began to flee, but Karzai urged them to stay and finished his speech, a government official said, according to a written statement.

"Investors and enemies of Afghanistan fired three rockets to watch the speech versus of Hamid Karzai and the firing of the rockets did not cause any interruption in the program of the [illegible] president," the palace said in a statement after Karzai concluded his trip.

No one was hurt, said Karzai, who has already survived two assassination attempts in recent years, was whisked away after his speech under heavy security, a witness said.

Several helicopters operated by Western forces, part of Karzai's security arrangement, were hovering above the site of the meeting, at the time of the strike, he added.

A Taliban spokesperson, Qari Mohammad Yousuf, said the Taliban knew that Karzai would be attending the meeting in Andar district of Ghazni province and they fired 12 rockets.

Karzai has been leading Afghanistan since the Taliban's removal from power by US-led forces in 2001, but his critics call him "mayor of Kabul" because they feel his power does not extend beyond the capital, which is [illegible] by foreign troops.

The government official said the president's visit to Ghazni was a routine provincial trip, though the area has seen repeated recent clashes between Taliban and Western and Afghan troops. Reuters

WHAT'S INSIDE
■ Spurs halfway to crown /A28

SPORTS
Editor Teddyboy S. Molmisa Jr. Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Delos Reyes

DESIGNER WEEK
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Harbour Centre guns for 2-nil edge today

HARBOUR CENTRE SOCKS FOOTBALL TO another thriller when it shoots for a 2-0 lead over Cebuana Lhuillier-Met Pabebe today in the PFF Unity Cup Finals at the Ortigas College Sports Center.

"It's going to be tight," Harbour coach Jorge Gallent predicted. "Again, it will depend on who can score better in the last three minutes. We just have to prepare."

Batang Pier hope to secure closure to a dated straight championship when they tangle at 3:30 p.m. with the Momentum, who vow to make big adjustments on defense.

Jason Cortez and Oliver Leaver again played their best when it mattered most for Batang Pier in Game 1, which they won, 84-70, last Saturday.

Lastelle, last year Rookie Most Valuable Player, unloaded eight of his 12 points in the last six minutes while Cortez stuffed key buckets in the closing seconds to seal the win more than put up by Momentum star Ken Rosse in the boards spread.

"We struggled a lot," said Gallent. "Good thing Jason and Oliver fought us again."

For Momentum coach Luigi Trillo, playing good defense right at the opening quarter will be the formula to level the series.

SAMBOOK /A2

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WILLIAMS: Missing

Williams' RP five stint looks dim; Norwood in

By Jove Navarro

THE CHANCES OF RELY WILLIAMS joining the SMC-Team Pilipinas bound for the 15th Asia Men's Championships further diminished when the cathedral squad left for Bangkok last night without him.

National team head coach Chot Reyes had earlier handpicked the 6'6 Letran Knights rookie sensation to join the squad in their week-long warm-up course of European basketball in Bel grade along with George Mason University standout Jesse Norwood.

But while the 6-foot-3 Norwood had agreed to meet up with the national squad during its departure for London en-the-way to Belgrade, Williams could not be located after the Reuters were booted out of the ongoing PBA Fiesta Conference playoffs.

"We're still open for any possibility," said Reyes of the 6-foot-6 Williams, that season's top overall pick. "But, of course, we want his commitment to play for flag and country."

Williams reportedly went home to Detroit, Michigan. Since then, he has failed to report to the cathedral the national team's meeting and.

Team manager and Williams was have communicated joining the team.

Williams is the leading contender for the PBA Rookie of the Year award and ranks third in the MVP derby.

Reyes had wanted Williams as replacement for Rudy Hatfield, who bagged off because of a prior wedding commitment, as Bad Santos, who is sidelined by a shoulder injury.

The addition of Norwood and Williams to the SP pool has raised hopes that Reyes would assume them to the first favorite of the team bound for the 59th Asia Men's Championships on July 28 to Aug. 5 in Saitama, Japan.

"Three players (in the SP Team) have sacrificed so much and there are several, too, who expressed their willingness to play like Willie (Miller), Eric (Menk), Kenny (Thoss) and Mo (Isaacs)," said Reyes.

In Belgrade, the line Miguel-Off Team will face a squad from Norfound, which boasts a seven-foot import named Charles Chris and four leaks standing 6-5, 6-6, 6-10 and 6-11. Norfound is among the five division-1 northern teams lined up against the Nationals.

SHAKEY'S V-LEAGUE

Chase on for last 3 semis slots

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE CHASE IS ON FOR THE LAST THREE SEMIFINAL SLOTS in the Shakey's V-League volleyball tournament.

Ateneo and University of Santo Tomas shoot for semifinal berths as they tackle opposite foes in the last two matches of the eliminations round today at The Arena in San Juan.

Only Lyceum and San Sebastian had advanced in the semifinals, which will pit the top five teams in double-knockout action where they will carry their respective records in the elimination.

STANDINGS	W	L
Lyceum	6	1
San Sebastian	5	1
UST	4	2
Ateneo	3	3
Santo	3	3
Tomas		
La Salle	2	4
Adamson	2	4
Far Eastern	2	4
Letran	1	6

TODAY'S GAMES
(The Arena - San Juan)
2 p.m. — FEU vs. ADU
4 p.m. — Ateneo vs. San Sebastian

The Pigmans will take on the Far Eastern Lady Tams at 2 p.m., while the Lady Eagles will clash against the second-running Lady Stags at 4 p.m.

A loss by the Pigmans and the Lady Eagles would put them into a tie at 3-4 with La Salle, Adamson and Far Eastern.

In such event, the semis seeding will be based on the head-to-head.

The Pigmans, sharing a 3-3 slate with Ateneo, are hoping to close on a high note their spree won over put up a challenge before Rochelle Chapin. The Lady Tamaraws, sporting seventh at 2-4, must win against the Pigmans to get a crack at the fifth and semifinal berth.

Although playing with less pressure, San Sebastian is still aiming for a share of the 6-1 lead with Lyceum to boost its record heading into the semi round.

The Lady Stags already played spoiler to Adamson's outright semifinal bid with a 25-16, 25-27, 25-21, 25-17 victory last Thursday.

Lyceum leading Lyceum last Thursday.

Banking on the huge games of Mary Ann Bolo and Wena Bajar, the Pigmans dealt the Lady Tamaraws their first loss with a 25-15, 25-16, 25-20 drubbing.

Bolo and Bajar combined for 26 attacks to dominate the Lady Warriors in the straight-set triumph.

Only a game behind UST, the Lady Tamaraws are expected to

LADY Falcons Hannah Bearse (left) and Wena Jane Lagutiles (on) a hailing trip in by Letran in Sunday's game. - NELSON BOSTE, MANILA TIMES FILE

Youngsters rookie masters champions; Singaporean shines

YOUTHFUL JERSEY TAZI SIM (Sim) Convention showed up their elders, nailing the men's and ladies' rookie masters titles in the 26th SMC Reyes International Open tournament Thursday at the SM Mall of Asia Bowling Center.

Sending way past their normal bedtimes, EATEN-BIS Tips and TM-M Prime's Convenience, both 11 years old, both preferred their first major wins around 7 a.m. Monday after emerging with the best 10-game series in the finals.

Averaging 171 per game, Tips scored 1,540 in bagging the men's rookie masters championship and a cash prize of P30,000 in the tourney sponsored by Reyes, Amway Philippine Sports Commission and the Department of Tourism.

Both Bede Bautista finished 21 pins behind and settled for runner-up honors earning P15,000 while Ryan Pogoy's Jose Antonio (1,701) placed third and got P9,000.

On the other hand, Convention, a Silaw Cornish School Stockholder high school sophomore, bade 1,711 to emerge as runner-up in the ladies' division and the P15,000 prize in the event also supported by Amiel, the official BP team outfitter.

SEVERE Tess Eusebio took second with a 1,689 output and P8,000 while P&M-Bondstone's Anne Ramirez was in third spot at 1,646 and bests P6,000.

Sharing the spotlight was a young Singaporean bowler, Singapore's Fun Jia Hui, who achieved the men's rookie tournament's second-highest game of 300 before back-to-back strikes.

Using a 16-lb Red silver Edge ball, Fun, a 17-year-old student, scored the third six-bagger in the last four SMCs on international event.

Her accomplished the gain of a game in the semi event in the emergency of teammates Katherine Wu and Chin Lim, who combined for 1,182 and more winning rewards in the category.

The foreign contingents began screaming into the country Sunday and earning the early birds was Jack Indonesian bowler Nora Leonard Lawrence A. Ignacio (Ateneo) Hugo L. Navarro (Ateneo) Jr. (Ateneo) Jose Ma. Ateneo) Jr. (Ateneo) Jr. (Ateneo) Jr. (

French hat-trick for Nadal

Super Spaniard thwarts Federer's Grand Slam bid anew

RAFAEL Nadal collapses on his back after nailing his third straight French Open crown with a fourth over Roger Federer. AP

PARIS—RAFAEL NADAL SURMISED EXACTLY WHAT DESTINY was all about.

Destiny as the world's best clay-courter at the French Open on Sunday, once again, meaning Roger Federer's dare with destiny.

By bringing the world number one to his knees with a 6-3, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 victory, Nadal followed Spain's Borg to become only the second man in 25 years to clinch a hat-trick of titles at Roland Garros.

And at the old 12 months ago, the irrepressible 23 year-old Spaniard salvaged Federer's valiant bid to join American Don Budge and immortal Rod Laver as the only men to hold all four grand slams in the same time. It is often the last one Down opposed for 20 years.

Federer's search for the elusive claycourt major will have to go on to the backburner for at least another year thanks to a ragged Czech executioner in the final.

After contending 40 unforced errors and committing only one of 17 break points during a duel lasting three hours and 10 minutes, it came as little surprise when the 21-year-old Swiss handed victory to Nadal by slamming a clear-hand forehand on the first match point.

Undisputed king

As the crowd stood up to hail his undisputed king of clay, Nadal promptly collapsed on to his back, legs splayed, and covered his face in disbelief.

Realizing he had turned over to be a huge stumbling block in Federer's quest for greatness, Nadal told the crowd: "I am really sad for Roger. Life is a friend and a great champion, whether he wins or loses.

In a disappointed 10 mins Crowd Slam champion Federer stood on the podium holding his runner-up role, victim of what could have been must have finished through the second mind. "I'm a bit sad but I fought, I tried. I know I can do it more. And it's my turn."

Nadal had captured 16 claycourt titles, Federer's said stood at six. The Spaniard had a 6-0 4 win head-to-at Paris against 25-0 for the latter.

But the 20 year-old harbored hopes of narrowing his 3-5 claycourt record against Nadal, having beaten him just 21 days ago in the finals of the Hamburg Masters.

Breaking the Swedes with sweat glistening on his bulging biceps, Nadal blasted forehands to ace 17 forced points in the opening set.

The pocket Swiss strung that steadily accompanies Federer's serpentine shots broke down in the next game and he dropped his serve to love.

Sensing the match was slipping away from Federer's grasp in the second set, relief in the stands cried out: "Right now, come on!"

As if on cue, Federer broke his Spanish foe for the first time to go 4-3 ahead.

He held on to win the set but from then on was left dominated as Nadal charged forward reminding his perfect Roland Garros record to 23-0.

AP

Lions oust Warriors, forge clash with Archers

By Jasmine W. Payo

SAN BEDA AND LA Salle avenged setbacks pounding showdowns to face Filoil Flying V Premiere Invitational Cup after slipping past their semifinal rivals yesterday at The Arena in San Juan.

Aiming for a major finish to organizer pins, Feng Guofeng beat 30 of San Beda's 32 points to overcome as the Red Lions past a 90-85 victory over the University of the Visayas.

The Lions only needed to run the clock out in the last 39 seconds of regulation, but Ulysses Nadal saw make the half from Marshall for a breakaway layup that forged the score at 84-all.

La Salle trimmed on Al Cano in the last quarter as the rockets pulled out an 86-75 triumph over the rough Technical University Bulldogs.

Cano, a climb-shooting veteran guard, fired 25 points from beyond the arc for a day high 26 on layed seven assists and five rebounds.

The Lions and the Archers will clash for the title at 3 p.m. tomorrow at The Arena in San Juan.

"We're still not 100 percent," said Cano of the dominating Archers, who already squeezed one preseason titles after serving a one-year suspension in the NAAP. "But we're always ready to fight. We're doing our best to show our capabilities."

Before Cano's game-winning layup, Mercy Arellano had nailed two free throws that drew the titleholders within a bucket. The Warriors had the chance to forge a second overtime, but Mark Barkman fanned two free throws after drawing a foul from Dave Idaraba on the last 13.1 seconds.

The scores

FIRST GAME

LA SALLE 86—Cano 26, Villanueva 15, Mangahas 14, Valenzuela 7, Yang 5, Alfeche 5, Nadal 5, Ibarbatan 4, Cruz 2, Lim 2.

UV 75—Arellano 24, Salcedo 12, Lingan-Lingan 10, Mahaguna 10, Pinlac 6, Cardona 5, Jimenez 2, Ramirez 2, Lucot 1.

Quarters: 20-20, 42-42, 64-62, 86-75

Lineups/Scores

SAN BEDA 90—Abanes 21, Lucero 16, Ilano 11, Alamares 9, Lumbo 12, Hernandez 7, Nolasco 2, Segovia 2, Maglupay 10.

OLSH 85—Gregorio 31, Lingan 10, Balbuena 10, Lee 11, Dela Cruz 4, Lopez 6, Ramirez 2, Amoguis 2, Fernandez 6.

Quarters: 19-22, 36-45, 57-57, 84-85, 90-85 (OT)

Ateneo-La Salle golf duel June 29 at Canlubang

CHAMPIONSHIPS IN SEVEN CATEGORIES will be disputed when archrivals Ateneo and De La Salle clash anew in the 2003 Classic Cup golf tournament on June 29 at the Canlubang Golf and Country Club.

Players in the championship division will play in both while those in classes A, B, C, D, Ladies, women's and the new Super Seniors (55 and above) will use their handicaps. Players with no qualifications will in the open category.

The competition format reached introduction in 2000 with La Salle emerging as champion, but Ateneo bounced back to win the title last year.

The year's winner permanently keeps the Classic Cup.

The Ateneo-La Salle golf tournament started in 1984, with hundreds of alumni from both schools as well as top provincial affiliates competing for supremacy.

After 20 years of competition, the Classic Cup has finally retired the prestigious medium under Carlos Salazar Cup effective its milestone 2005 campaign.

Shotgun start will be at 8 a.m. at the Hyatt course for the Championship, A, B, Ladies, Seniors and Super Seniors classes, while shotgun tee-off time is at 8:30 a.m. for the C and D players at the Arnold course.

The awarding ceremony will be held right after the tournament presented by PLDT and Smart Communications.

Government Warning: Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health

SPORTS

Spurs halfway to crown

Hold off late Cavs charge, take 2-0 Finals lead

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS—Overconfident after seizing a 29-point lead, the San Antonio Spurs squandered most of that edge Sunday before holding off Cleveland, 103-92, in the NBA Finals.

Tony Parker scored 30 points, Hilton Giniboli had 20 and Tim Duncan added 21 points, nine rebounds and eight assists as the Spurs seized a 2-0 lead in the best-of-seven series, which shifts to Cleveland for Game Three Tuesday.

The Spurs were in a position to humiliate the Cavaliers, leading 69-40 late in the third quarter, and instead allowed LeBron James and Cleveland's bench to outscore a 27-point star and nearly subdue 19,407 with a 6-20 to play before falling short.

"It was really disappointing," Giniboli said. "We played such a great game for three quarters. To overtake us in the fourth, that was unacceptable of us.

"We got overconfident. We were feeling so good about ourselves and then our stopped scoring the ball and he LeBron got open. We can't allow ourselves to do that in Cleveland or they are going to kill us."

The Spurs led 58-31 at halftime, then wasted one of the most dominant first-half throwings in NBA Finals history.

James, hounded with early foul trouble, scored 23 points on 9-of-22 shooting and led the comeback. But a 4-point play by Giniboli gave the Spurs a 101-89 lead with 2:06 remaining to 6-ball salvaged the stubborn Cavaliers.

"We DON'T want to get blown out," James said. "It's come a LOT different ways when you are down 40 to many points in the finals."

Parker scored 14 first-half points while Duncan added 13 each Giniboli 12 to produce a 58-point halftime margin. No team in NBA Finals history recovered from so large a deficit to win.

"They made a ball of a run in the fourth quarter," Brown said. "Finally going to give them credit. LeBron going back to Cleveland."

Coach Greg Popovich blamed himself for keeping Duncan and Parker resting too long on the bench as Cleveland rallied.

"In the fourth quarter LeBron got away from us," Popovich said. "My substitution pattern was poor and (also, a couple (dribbles I rolled were inappropriate."

Cavaliers coach Mike Brown was pleased his team never quit.

James went to the bench after committing two fouls in the first 2:55, and Cleveland never recovered. James, scoreless in the first half of Game One, was 4-of-11 from the field in the second quarter thanks to his limited ball.

The Cavaliers came within 10 seconds of mobbing a Finals record for first half scoring futility but a frantic LeBron line Chance with 1 fouled for James with 5:45 remaining. 6:06 pulled Cleveland down to the minimal mark.

The Spurs barely missed matching the 1995 Bulls' tallies for the largest Finals halftime lead of 20.

Parker had scored nine points while Duncan had five and Giniboli four in an 19-4 Spurs run that produced their biggest first-half lead of 69-30.

The Spurs ended their fourth-game losing streak. AFP

HANU Giniboli reacts after a three-point basket during Game Two of the NBA Finals at the AT&T Center in San Antonio. —AFP

SPURS' Tim Duncan (left) gets down the Cavs' LeBron James to block his shot. —AFP

Fernando nips Alejandro by 1

ANTHONY FERNANDO CLOSED WITH a three-under par 69 to capture the 32nd National Amateur golf tournament championship by a stroke over youngster Mike Alejandro Sunday at the PGA of Southern Champion Course in Cherry Valley in Tennessee, California.

Down by one at the start of the final round, Fernando went on a birdie binge at the front to secure the trophy over Alejandro with a par, pars to hold off Alejandro and pocket the title with a 10-hole aggregate of 214.

Alejandro, who grabbed the second-round lead from Fernando with a 70 Saturday, shot a 71 and settled for second with a 21-5 total in the event serving as part of licensing. Second for the $250 hosted national tournament.

Tournament Hung Chien Yin also shot a 69 and finished third at 216 while Dante Bolcino settled 4th with level fourth with +223.

Gino Bueno made a 75 and secured 19 at 219 for a share of fifth with Andrew Ahuja (72) and Randy Howard (74) while Dean Bolcino closed in +79 for eighth place at 230.

Austin's 62 clinches $1-million champion's prize at St. Jude

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE—HUNTER AUSTIN shot a career-low 62 Sunday to win the $1 million St. Jude Championship by three strokes.

Austin finished a record-low 19-under 261 to edge second-round leader Scott Piercy (66) by three strokes. Piercy had a final round 69 and Jason Bohn (67) finished third at 264.

Austin's 62 matched the best score in the 28-year history of the tournament, which is played at TPC Southwind. It was the lowest score of the year on the PGA Tour.

Austin, who earned $1.08 million, had seven birdies and an eagle on the front nine before adding four more birdies on the back nine. AFP

THE FIRST black driver to win, Britain Lewis Hamilton raises his arms in the air and jumps off his McLaren. —AP

Hamilton tops Canadian GP for landmark victory

MONTREAL—LEWIS HAMILTON'S historic year got elusive—color dimmer.

The 22-year-old Englishman, the first black driver in Formula One history, added his first F1 victory to an already remarkable career start by winning the rain-filled Canadian Grand Prix on Sunday.

And Fernando shook away.

Hamilton shared from the pole, the first time Alonso's first-driving this had for Steve Jape after Hamilton his first-career pit stop; he led all the way and was never challenged.

The dust, rain-spoken youngster has on consecutive top-three finishes in six starts, something no other first-year F1 driver has accomplished. He is now atop the standings, eight points ahead of Nemesis Alonso, his teammate and the two-time reigning F1 champion.

"Fantastic day," Hamilton said, grinning.

The Hamilton-McLaren driver's only competition for the 70-lap race is Ginger Gilles Villeneuve's 2:5-mile course time from 1999 Jacques Villeneuve.

The only thing that kept the two-time all-star race's drops—four full-course cautions flags that stopped for the track Hamilton built with streaming cone.

"It was a fairly simple race, quite from the outset," Hamilton said. "On the first lap I just tried to keep the tyres warm and not make a mistake."

After he had won the race, Hamilton thrust his arms in the air and jumped up and down. He then lowered to the ground, wound as a hunter and jumped to cheers after into the radio of his race.

Alonso started alongside his McLaren teammate on the front row. He took a mistake on the start when his driver off the course on the first turn and allowed Hamilton drive past into second.

HAPPY TIME rejoices on the podium. —AP

Alonso was in with a penalty for getting too close during one of the full-course restarts. He was passed two laps from the finish by Super Aguri's Takuma Sato and finished seventh.

Nick Heidfeld, a 22-year-old driver from Mönchengladbach, Germany, now racing with the Toyota of Jarno Trulli and the Patron of Felipe Massa when he suddenly moved off course into the grass.

Heidfeld's car slammed into the inside concrete wall, somersaulted across the track in a shower of debris, hit that outside wall and came to rest.

The Peruvian of Minnie and Kimi Raikkonen were expected to pass a threat, but both had problems.

Minnie was running fourth when her was disqualified, along with Ricardo's Giancarlo Fisichella, who was eighth at the time. Officials said they both were out of fuel or showed up for post-race driving regulations.

Raikkonen was through the grass several times and struggled to a fifth-place finish. AP

Pettersen nips Webb for 1st 'major'

ANNE DE GRACE, MARYLAND—HEIDI ANN's fortune. Pettersen overcame a five-stroke deficit to claim a one-shot victory over Australian Rookie Webb at the SPDA Championship on Sunday and lift her first career title.

Pettersen, who suffered a final round collapse at the Youth Holdout Championship in April, showed no signs of the nerves that were running on Sunday with a single bogey for a winning total of 14-under 274.

"Now I finally proved to all of you that I can actually put it all together and take a major," said Pettersen, who was last Shift LPGA debut at last month's Mitchell Ohio Open.

"I was in the best players in the world but you have to get on there."

Webb suffered Pettersen the heckuler at the Bulls Rock course, closing with birdies at 17th and 18th to force Sunday's call. But Pettersen, who was in the shot-lead today a bogey double-bogey bogey cost from the 10th at the Bulls, did not waste and enjoyed a birdie at 17.

South Korean rookie Mirie Ho was in on, playing in her first major and just her sixth professional event, capped off a big week with a solo-course two-under 70 to finish alone in third place, two shots back on 12-under 276.

Michelle Wie closed out a disappointing weekend with a 70 to finish last and 11 strokes off the pace on 2-1-over 300. Alonso

SUSANN Pettersen celebrates winning the LPGA Championship. —AP

Coseteng a marked man again in PTTC third leg

ANDY COSETENG WILL BE THE man to beat anew when the 2007 Philippine Touring Car Championship Series drops in third leg the Sunday, June 17, at the Subic International Raceway.

Tough Challengers Kodie Santana of Boracay Mia and the young Dr. Jun Supangkat of Pampanga Motorsports hope to find a way to stop the undefeated defending champion and leading Cobra driver Coseteng, who scored another sweep in the second leg recently.

Also out to stop Coseteng from dominating the series organized by Race Parts Inc. and sanctioned by the Automobile Association Philippines are Leon Rosario of Motorsolo, Roman Rio of Motorbest Sidecar Motors, Ramon Morales of Subic Bluff Racing, Mico Hernandez of Alaska Racing, Cebastro Amorbar, Ignatius and Carlos Santos of 888 Racing, pioneers Dominic Ros and PMA Racing's Jonathan Gaerlan. Ros is the son of the late Mike Ros.

Santana had his chance in the last leg when Coseteng figured in a collision at the start of the race and slipped at the back of the 30-man field. But despite the setback, Coseteng managed to regain composure and drive another sweep.

BUSINESS

Lira Rod O. Maroño • Assistant Lito Camil S. Mariano

Cebu Pacific eyes hub in Clark

Growing capacity, related businesses luring Gokongwei firm

By Riza T. Olchondra

CEBU PACIFIC SAID IT WAS LOOKING INTO PUTTING UP a hub in Clark to take advantage of growing capacity and the presence of aviation-related businesses in the area.

"We may have slots there in a few years' time," Cebu Pacific president and CEO Lance Gokongwei told reporters.

Cebu Pacific flies airline jets to and from Clark. Passengers can book a flight and board in Clark using the budget airline's website.

The research was a slight departure from one he made last year, when Gokongwei said having a hub in Clark was still a far-off possibility despite the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport's (DMIA) potential. He said then that the airport needed a bigger terminal and facilities for allied aviation services.

A larger terminal is now being planned. Clark International Airport Corp. (CIAC), which manages the DMIA, said in March that it would expand its existing terminal and build an additional terminal.

CIAC officials said June to May that the DMIA was ripe for capacity expansion, from one million to five million passengers a year.

Cebu Pacific has also launched its Clark-based pilot training program, in partnership with the privately owned Clark Aviation. Sairyn Hidayat's 6th year, Cebu Pacific has been supporting pilot-training scholarships. In return, it would get first pick for new pilots to fly the budget carrier's rapidly increasing fleet of new Airbus jets.

The facility is attractive not only to Cebu Pacific but also to other airlines that want to avoid of skyline pilots.

The Airbus A320 is one of the most efficient aircraft for regional flights. Executives chose that Asian skies will require 6,000 new pilots each year to serve a soaring number of flights for the next 20 years.

With the developments taking place, Gokongwei said that Cebu Pacific sees seeing better prospects for a Clark hub, though he still would not specify when this could become a reality.

"There are no specifics yet, just that we may have a hub in Clark, and we support the developments of Clark and the entry of more flights there for so long as there is reciprocity and fairness with local airlines," he said.

TAP

DA seeks ₱10B more for 2008

By Amy R. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULture will seek an additional budget of P10 billion for 2008 to finance projects needed to achieve 3.7-4 percent growth for the farm sector.

Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap said the additional outlay would allow the government to create more jobs and carry out a massive rural infrastructure build-up involving the repair or rehabilitation of irrigation facilities.

The additional funds would also be used to establish more postharvest and transport facilities to bring farm produce faster and efficiently to their markets.

Yap said a higher 2008 budget was necessary for the agency to adequately finance the productivity and support programs that he and other agriculture officials had drawn up with more than 60 industry leaders during a retreat workshop.

Earlier, Yap said it would ask Congress for an additional P130 billion for its 2008 budget to finance initiatives by the department's drive to increase agricultural productivity and farmers' incomes.

This brings the total budget the department had asked to P311 billion.

Some P4 billion of the amount

See BRISK on B2

CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 46.17 = $1

As of Jun. 11, 2007, 4:00 p.m.

STOCK MARKET

See stock market report on Page B4

Bargain-hunting seen

BARGAIN-HUNTING ACTIVITY is [illegible] picking up stocks cheapened by [illegible] rising bet rates when trading resumes today. Financial analysts were [illegible] there's no official holiday.

The composite index ended down 12.88 points, or 0.33, to 3,916.73 on Friday after moving between 3,908.39 and 3,932.28.

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Energy chief urges caution in exercising nuclear option

IN PREPARATION FOR A POSSIBLE FUTURE nuclear power generation, the government is actively building a human resources pool that will foster strongly nuclear scientists and technical experts to undertake such projects.

According to Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla, nuclear power option is a complicated undertaking that will require long-term planning and extensive human resource training.

"It will take an estimated 15 years to train experts, study, decide and implement this option," he said.

Instead of jumping into the nuclear bandwagon with neighbors Vietnam and Indonesia, Lotilla said it would be best for the government to finalize a Human Resource Development program that would develop a pool of experts to study various aspects of nuclear plant operations, including choosing appropriate sites, security and waste disposal.

In encouraging the nuclear option, the resulting benefit and environmental impact, as well as social acceptability, will be carefully studied, he said.

He added that the program would also allow the country to handle any eventuality arising from the nuclear power plant operations of neighboring countries.

The provincewide of Bataan and Subic were better announced plans to put up nuclear power plants, also Taiwan has nuclear facilities now in operation.

Thus, therefore, will be cautious based approach to the nuclear power option," he said.

In an earlier interview, he said going into nuclear power generation might be a feasible way to bring down power rates.

Lotilla said the archipelagic nation up of the country made power rates high, as it was more difficult to transmit power from one part of the country to another. — Alipio G. Ho

BIR, BOC may yet revise their collection targets

By Philbelle V. Ramos

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE IS wanting to the idea of revising the quarterly revenue collection targets of the Bureau of Internal Revenue and Bureau of Customs for this year.

Although the interagency Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC) has already established the official quarterly collection targets for the government's main revenue earners, the two agencies are still performing well their respective targets.

A source from the DBCC, however, claimed that the two agencies were only taking it to account of the quarterly allocation of the 2007 budget, and not for the enhancement of the full-year revenue goal.

The official said that, since what matters is the realization of the full-year targets, the DOF may give in blessings to the revision of the quarterly targets. The BOF is the lead agency of the BIR and the BOC.

The DBCC, which sets the government's official economic policies and targets, has set a revenue target of P284.16 billion for the first quarter, P276.9 billion for the second, P305.4 billion in the third, and P304.13 billion in the fourth quarter.

But the BIR and the BOC, so their own, have set a combined target of P282.13 billion for the first quarter, P277.11 billion for the second, P347.74 billion in the third, and P276.195 billion in the fourth quarter.

The quarterly goals of the BIR and the BOC were P2 billion lower than the official target set by the DBCC for the first quarter, P1.7 billion lower than the official second quarter goal, P6.37 billion lower than the DBCC's target for the third quarter, but P32 billion higher in the fourth quarter.

The two agencies believe they found on cyclical reasons, the fourth quarter is when revenue collection is at its highest, the source said.

The BIR and the BOC are bent on sticking to the targets set, as they are usually held liable and sustained for shortfalls in revenue collection.

Based on official targets, the BIR fell short of the P335.2 billion collection goal in the first quarter after it turned in only P.41.1 billion.

On the other hand, the BOC missed its P46.9-billion target in the same period, collecting only P40.2 billion.

The BIR said the shortfall were partly due to factors beyond its control, including slower-than-expected inflation that resulted in lower-than-target collection of value-added tax. The BIR also said the target set was too high.

Bureau of the revenue shortfalls of the two agencies, the national government retained the budget deficit ceiling set for the first quarter.

The DBCC hoped to limit the deficit to only P45.4 billion, less the actual budget gap had hit P46.4 billion.

The DOF said the government would intensify efforts to improve tax collection, including the set-aside processes of the BIR and provision of state-owned assets to catch up with the full-year goal of limiting the budget deficit to by 2007 to only P63 billion.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo (third) believes Boris Jackson of Smithkline Health Food Co. and Apple Jobbers Secretary Bobbie Yap, who is holding a cup of a deal that will pave the way for Filipino food items, supervising the talk-binding programs of the country, to be said she said.

Wolves in sheep's kin

THE SECRECY IN THIS GUISE administration, among those said to be a sheepish kin of Cinderella, may finally succeed in booting out the incumbent public BIR Commissioner Jose Maria Buting.

Only last Sunday "text" messages circulated among the BIR's top regional officers (with one detailed message coming from a top official of the BIR Pasig office), all claiming that the Palace is "sacking" Buting.

Really? Why?

Well, based on the media denials, its ups against Buting, which has been going on since he became BIR commissioner, the "wolves" are making to their campaign face (but, as always, fooled Buting) for the unrealized revenue target of the BIR.

Tell you what, this is the man under whom the BIR... is only one year in, in fact—posted an unprecedented 22 percent increase in tax collections in 2006.

In pure terms, it means that, compared to the take in 2005, the BIR collected more P100 billion more last year, which was the first full year of Buting as commissioner.

Again: P100 billion in excess! The business community, of course, coughed it all up!

And we all know that the BIR can only raise its collection if the BIR personnel collect more for the government that (in other themselves).

Yes, how touching!

Yet the "wolves" in the core administration—for whatever ungodly reason, such as grabbing control of the BIR post and thus having their wicked way on the Treasury—select Gloria and to get rid of Buting.

Commented a former finance secretary: "This is not good for business confidence."

For the popularity-challenged Gloria, (and I cannot believe I'm on her bandwagon), one of the original political "hangers-on" of Davao—who was said to be so close to her, he was among the BIR appointees to serve in Glorietta 4—

BREAKTIME

Commodity A: Bottled Oil

grabbed power from the most trusted Bud — First Bud—wanted to put his own people in watchdog sensitive positions in the BIR.

In fact, according to a Palace insider, Glorietta already issued an executive order—to Intendencia Reginald, at Sun—precisely just for those appointments.

One of the new assessors was the creation of an "enforcement composite," which of course would be headed by the BIR officer-headquartered by an beloved "orig" hanger-on.

"Enforcement," in BIR parlance, really actually means "harassment" to the business community!

Another measure would allow a law-enforcement BIR personnel to jump ex—again, MS—positions to become head of the "large taxpayers unit," which oversees the tax payments of big business.

Uh-oh! Watch out, guys, here comes the drake down!

* * *

Until now, the Department of Finance and the collection target of the BIR is P475 billion.

Throughout the whole year operatic aspects—stemming from DOF harassment at the point that the BIR, particularly Buting, as its head, missed the MONTHLY targets.

Supposedly, based on the media campaign apparently unleashed by the "wolves," the BIR collected P452 billion last year—or about P26 billion "short."

Actually, they forgot to tell us, the taxpayers, that some P26 billion of the "shortfall" were the taxes on the interest on T-bills that this core administration did not have to issue anymore.

You see, when the DOF made the BIR's target, the DOF assumed that this core administration would need to borrow a lot of money to pump T-bills. The interest on the T-bills would be subjected to tax. The BIR then would make the interest tax as part of its collection.

But the DOF only borrow the BIR did such a damn good job in tax collection, and the treasury had so much money coming out of its ears, this core administration did not have to issue the T-bills anymore.

Meaning, of course, the BIR could also not collect the tax on the interest, which amounted to P26 billion.

Another issue was the P27 billion in taxes on oil products that the BIR could not collect, simply because its oil refinery was closed down, prompting the oil company to import refined oils, thus paying the taxes and duties through the Bureau of Customs.

So the DOF did not remove such "uncollectible" tax on T-bill interest and oil products from the BIR target. If the two items, totaling P53 billion, were removed from the BIR target, the bureau would have posted a P58-billion "surplus."

Of course nobody outside the BIR will know about such a revision of the targets. It was bad for the campaign plan of the "wolves" that the BIR was so inefficient and corrupt under Buting that it missed the targets.

Again, those BIR guys already worked their butt off and collected P4.03 billion more last year. OKAY!

* * *

ALREADY, a couple of names are being bandied about as replacement for Buting. One is BIR deputy commissioner Lilian Hefti, a veteran CPA-lawyer in the bureau who rose through the ranks.

In all likelihood, she will just become the OIC, a temporary appointment, while the Palace waits for the right time to put (the one assisted by the "wolves").

Word is going around that the "wolves" are going to take control of the bureau through the appointment of a former functionary in the Witt Road administration.

DA seeks ₱10-B additional budget for 2008

From page B-1

would raise the count of irrigation canals covering 462,000 to 616,000 hectares of land from March to July 2008.

The Dab target is to rehabilitate irrigation facilities covering 300,000 hectares in three years, which would require a total budget of P22 billion.

To address wastages and post-harvest losses, about P2 billion will be allotted for 3,000 farmers' drying areas and corn production farms in 2008. Postharvest losses usually amount to 20 percent of the total yields for rice and corn.

To preserve the quality of vegetable harvests, another P1 billion is allocated in 2008 to build temporary cold storage facilities in production areas and "logistics" centers.

Another P1 billion will be used to build facilities and equipment to ensure safe fish production.

The DA also wants to provide more funds for fishing communities to raise the growth of the fisheries sector to 13 percent in 2008, from an annual average of 8 percent in the past five years, Yap said.

To boost the production of dairy products, vehicle corn, vegetables and chicken eggs, another P1 billion will be allocated to finance the program, while another P1 billion could be used to open new areas for development through the construction of farm-to-market roads leading to new and existing areas for livelihood production, Yap said.

Yap said the DA was aiming to increase annual farm growth from the current average of 3.4 percent to at least 5.4 percent for the next decade.

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SM unit plans to raise ₱5B in new funds

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

SM DEVELOPMENT CORP., THE CONDO... minister builder of mall tycoon Henry Sy, may raise P5 billion in new funds from either debt or additional share sales this year to fund projects and acquire lands.

"It's part of our plan, so we are now [unclear] this year. But it depends [crisis] we have enough liquid assets," SMDC president Roger Columbag said. "We will study the market and see if it's favorable."

In the second half, Columbag said that SMDC may proceed... ng with its Mona Residences, a residential and commercial condominium project being undertaken in joint venture with sister firm Sun-to-do Dev...

Mona Residences will have four 16-story towers connected by a retail podium. Each of the buildings will have one-, two-, or three-bedroom units of 20-, 40-, and 60-square-meters. Mona Residences is selling a total of 2,920 units and is expected to be completed in three years. Total estimated cost to complete the Mona project is P3.36 billion.

The company has also finished almost 97 billion in three major residential projects over the last three years.

There are the 15.4-billion Green Residences, the 12.5-billion Light Residences and the 8.5-billion Sun Residences.

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ORIENTATION
JUNE 15 & JUNE 22, 2007
5:00PM at the Executive Lounge
Administrative & Library Bldg. (ALB), UA&P

A Seminar on the Use of Financial Derivatives
General Concepts of Derivatives - Financial Options - Warrants
Convertible Debt & Convertible Preferred Shares - Securitization
Interest Rate Swaps - Interest Rate Derivatives - Currency Swaps &
Forwards - Other Currency Derivatives

August 28 & 30, 2007
8:00AM TO 5:00PM
5/F, TELEVISION HALL, APEC COMMUNICATIONS BLDG.,

Speakers
MR. LITO ICACOBA
VP for Financial Markets & Treasury Group, Bank of the Philippine Islands
DR. AARNE ESMAILOU
Asst. VP & Head of Market Risk Department, Bank of the Philippine Islands

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Rural banks and small businesses reap rewards of GCash

Imagine being able to order and pay for anything as easily as sending an SMS message. That's exactly what happened when Atty. Nicolas Lim, president and CEO of 2nd Valley Bank in Bagac, Bataan, found himself full of work one morning and couldn't step out of the office to pay his utility bills or even to break for lunch. A very busy man without a moment to spare, he brought out his mobile phone equipped with GCash, the internationally award-winning mobile commerce platform developed by G-Xchange, Inc. (GXI), a wholly owned subsidiary of Globe Telecom.

Atty. Lim made a call to Chicken King, a popular food restaurant, and seconds later he was using GCash through his cellphone. Then, a quick SMS message to Lucas Heater Co. (LUHECO) was all it took to pay his electric bill. A few minutes later, guess what was finishing off the last of his paperwork, an extra delicious bite with the fresh, hot basket of chicken that he ordered from Chicken King.

A simple yet powerful demonstration

"This was a simple yet very powerful demonstration of how GCash is really positioned to change the way economic thinks about banking and business," says Atty. Lim. GCash is a pioneering, integrated mobile payments system that transforms the mobile phone into a wallet for e-money, bill-payments accounts, and low-cost means of making money transfers and many payments.

GCash makes it easy to pay for utility bills, airtime fees, donations, and even prepaid airtime from almost anywhere in the world. Its rich-text capabilities and transaction-security make it an ideal to customers drained by card limits and their chores, such as merchants and utility companies. GCash-enabled businesses also benefit by being able to conveniently pay for their bank loans and to expand their customer base beyond their stores' and offices' locations.

A big step forward

Chicken King is just one of a growing number of businesses that are exploring the features and utility of GCash. "Demand and repayment loans are easy steps [unclear]. She stated having redemptions at their stores and customers [unclear] GCash," said Lucelle Salgado, a cashier at Chicken King. She pointed out that because they learned early the [unclear] customers who want to enjoy a satisfying meal but are too busy to step out for a bite to eat.

GCash benefits everyone down the line

RSAP-MARS affiliated banks such as 2nd Valley Bank mainly their expenses and SME clients (including basic utility [unclear]) to accept GCash payments at their respective [unclear]

RSAP
GCash
Globe
G! be

Vitarich gets court nod to proceed with rehab

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

POULTRY AND FEEDS FIRM Vitarich Corp. said yesterday it has obtained court approval from the Bulacan regional trial court to proceed with its rehabilitation plan.

Vitarich, in a disclosure to the stock exchange, partly cited a decision last May 31, penned by Judge Emelio Manalastas of the Malolos Clakovers. In that decision, the court directed Vitarich to implement the rehabilitation scheme and to submit monthly reports on the execution of the plan to both the court and the rehabilitation receiver.

The Philippine Stock Exchange is seeking additional information on the matter from Vitarich. Officials of the company could not comment in the interim's queries on architectural details of the approved rehabilitation plan as of yesterday.

The court earlier appointed Melito Salonga Jr. as the company's rehabilitation receiver to evaluate the company's financial recovery plan.

Vitarich filed its petition in 2006 for debt relief with the Malolos RTC where its facilities are located. It cited financial constraints stemming from the Asian currency crisis of 1998 and the aviation flu outbreak that slashed sales of chicken.

In a stay order issued last Sept. 19, the Malolos court allowed Vitarich to postpone its suspend debt payments.

Vitarich was looking at two strategies under its proposed rehabilitation petition to pay back some P52 billion in bank loans. Under the said plan, the company would involve the restructuring of its debt. The plan assumes that interest rates will be reduced from about 9 percent to 3.4 percent and the repayment period will be extended from 12 to 30 years.

The second strategy would involve the conversion of half of the debt into investor's capital notes. The notes will give the holders common share-like benefits, such as a share in the profits of the company, but without the right to vote.

First Pacific eyes new industries

THE FIRST PACIFIC-METRO PACIFIC Group is looking at manufacturing, food and beverage, and power as possible industries to invest in.

First Pacific managing director and chief executive and concurrent Metro Pacific Investments Corp. (MPIC) chair Manuel Pangilinan said yesterday that food and beverage were a few of the industries the group was looking at in the Philippines and other countries after First Pacific announced last month that its Singaporean unit acquired PT Perusahaan Perkebunan London Sumatra Indonesia Tbk (PPLI), a listed Indonesian firm engaged in breeding, planting, milling and selling of palm oil products.

Separately, MPIC president Jose Ma. Luis said the group was still interested to participate in a possible bid for bisected Transmission Co. (Transco) to operate the nationwide power grid.

"Transco is to be bid out in December. We were interested and we still continue to be interested. Whether it's First Pacific or MPIC remains to be seen," Luis said following a seminar by the Investment Association Association of the Philippines in partnership with San Miguel Corp. at the Holiday Inn Clark during the weekend.

As for food and beverage business, the First Pacific Group, through First Pacific Brands, made an aggressive move in 2005 to buy 60 percent of Anlene Singapore) pioneer Distillerias Pacific Ltd., from Dino Franciacorta S.p.A., Italy's largest wood food maker.

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Vehicle sales up 18% in first 5 months to 44,522 units

By Bonna W. Domingo

BUSINESS STRONG sales of new models, especially of Asian utility vehicles used by small businesses, revved up domestic vehicle sales by 17.7 percent in the first five months, hotel sources have reported yesterday.

"Marketing activities have been related with better financing offered by banks, making it easier for buyers to purchase the needed vehicles," Lee said.

"Growth of small and medium businesses are also being hit with the surge in commercial vehicle sales where buyers get pick-up trucks and vans for business use," she added.

Lee said the trend of continued growth was expected to June as well, such that the industry expects to handle the 100,000-unit mark this year.

In a joint report with the Truck Manufacturers Association, Campi said the two groups sold a total of 44,522 units as of end-May compared to 37,828 units in the year ago period.

The volume sold from January to May represented 43 percent of the full year target of 103,000 units.

"Year-to-date sales figures show that consumers of commercial vehicles grew 22.4 percent so far while that of passenger cars grew 16 percent," the report said.

The commercial pick-up vehicle seg-

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SYNOPSIS OF ANNUAL STATEMENT
As of December 31, 2006

ADMITTED ASSETS

Treasury Bills	P 70,802,648.69
Stocks	17,968,548.57
Real Estate	9,663,882.18
Security Fund	19,821.06
Cash on Hand and in Banks	16,951,193.22
Premiums Receivable	58,668,974.39
Premiums Due From Ceding Companies	134,273,774.31
Reinsurance Recoverable on Losses	68,433,887.72
Accrued Investment Income	170,818.33
EDP Equipment	1,698,681.52
TOTAL ADMITTED ASSETS	**P 406,686,318.79**

LIABILITIES

Losses and Claims Payable	P 46,126,139.95
Loss Adjustment Expenses Payable	705,566.26
Reserve for Unearned Premiums	87,070,171.42
Catastrophe Loss Reserve	2,365,436.89
Premiums Due to Reinsurers	80,653,399.69
Premiums Reserve Withheld by Reinsurers	13,917,628.78
Taxes Payable	12,810,942.43
Unearned Bond Discount	1,172,885.88
Other Liabilities	1,787,694.08
Total Liabilities	**P 350,612,869.48**

STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

Capital Stock Paid-up	P 50,000,000.00
Contributed Surplus	2,139,997.87
Retained Earnings	56,884,662.24
Total Stockholders' Equity	**P 109,024,659.31**
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY	**P 406,686,318.79**

(This Synopsis, prepared from the 2006 Annual Statement, approved by the Insurance Commissioner, is published pursuant to Section 225 of the Insurance Code of 1978, as amended.)

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Boie-Takeda celebrates Mother Company's 226th Foundation Day

Takeda, a multinational pharmaceutical company that originated from Japan more than two centuries ago, launches its "Worldwide Takeda-ism Month" today in celebration of its founding. Worldwide Takeda-ism Month is a concerted effort by all Takeda offices around the globe to promote and strengthen its unifying philosophy of "Takeda-ism," which represents integrity as being equal to "fairness, honesty and perseverance."

In the Philippines, Boie-Takeda Chemicals, Inc. joins this worldwide campaign by launching a series of activities and communications involving its employees, as well as the medical community, in its effort to renew and reinforce its corporate identity, and to further ensure its place in the local pharmaceuticals industry. These efforts are being spearheaded by the Human Resources and Marketing Communications teams of the company.

Takeda is a research-based global company focusing mainly on pharmaceuticals. It is the largest pharmaceutical company in Japan and among the leaders in the world. Takeda's mission is to provide better health for individuals and to achieve progress in medicine through the research, development, manufacturing, and marketing of a wide range of superior pharmaceutical products.

From humble and traditional to global and hi-tech

Chobei Takeda I, Founder

What is now a company producing breakthrough medicines for the world, interestingly, began quite humbly in 1781 when 11-year old Chobei Takeda I started the business selling only traditional Japanese and Chinese medicines in the Doshomachi district in Osaka. Doshomachi is historically, and even up to this day, considered the center of the medicine trade in Japan. Takeda's small shop then bought medicines from wholesalers, then divided them into smaller batches and sold them to local medicine merchants and doctors.

Through the years, Takeda's company shifted its concentration to Western medicines, leading other Japanese medicine retailers in its augmentation. Then, research and development (R&D), manufacturing and marketing were all integrated within the business. The company also continued to expand to other Asian countries, as well as to Europe and the U.S. Takeda currently has 13 bases outside of Japan.

Boie-Takeda was organized in the Philippines in 1968 and was one of the very first Takeda overseas affiliates. Its establishment initiated the rapid growth of Takeda's international network. Boie-Takeda is presently headed by Nicolas A. Lansang, Jr., the company's first Filipino President and General Manager.

Left: Boie-Takeda offices in Makati City
Right: Takeda Head Office in Osaka

Better health for individuals around the world

Ethical drugs are Takeda's core business, constituting 87.7% of total net sales. With research centers in Japan and the US, the company strives to move these drugs swiftly through the development process so that better treatments can be delivered as early as possible to patients around the world.

Takeda scientists at work

From its bases including Boie-Takeda in the Philippines, Takeda markets original products such as the anti-prostatic cancer agent leuprolide acetate, the anti-peptic ulcer agent lansoprazole, the anti-hypertensive agent candesartan cilexetil, and the anti-diabetic agent pioglitazone hydrochloride. Together with sales through licensees, Takeda's pharmaceuticals are available in over 100 countries worldwide.

Takeda's production network includes the Hikari, Osaka and Shonan plants in Japan, as well as Takeda Ireland Ltd., which was newly established in 1997 and manufactures drugs for the European and U.S. markets. In addition, Takeda has two production facilities in Asia.

On its 226th year of existence, Takeda proclaims itself as a company driven by research and development, and backed by a strong sense of the value of life, ingrained through its long history in the health industry.

From left to right: Boie-Takeda (BT) Marketing Director Edwin Villanueva; Dr. Jun Fernandez of Asian Hospital and Medical Center, UP College of Medicine Professor Emeritus Dr. Augusto Litonjua, Philippine Heart Association (PHA) Vice-President Dr. Efren Ocampo, BT President and General Manager Nick Lansang, Jr. and Dr. Jorge Sison of Medical Center Manila met in photo form the panel at the recently held breakfast symposium organized with the PHA Annual Convention last May at the Palm Manor Inn Plaza Hotel. The symposium discussed the results of the "CINCAS3 Study" showing that compared with glimepiride, pioglitazone showed about the progression of carotid artery intima-media thickness or CIMT, a marker of coronary atherosclerosis, in patients with type 2 diabetes over an 18-month period.

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Industry cheers drown out anti-mining protests

Safeguards in place to protect stakeholders, miners say

By Desiree L. Luces
Journal Correspondent

SAINT JAMES IN ANCIENT, Zambales (El Nido), a secret to the Subanon tribe, which inhabits the area.

According to legend, it was on this mountain where an ancient chieftain named Apo Mangbag made a covenant with a deity named Apo Anang to save the community from being conquered by a Batanes.

The covenant provided by anthropology group Bulacan Tigil Mina (BTM) – the Stop Mining Movement – also described the mountain as the Subanons' venue for healing, which is its highest thanksgiving ritual held every seven years.

Sacred mountain

In the 1990s, however, small-scale miners searching for gold moved into the area, acquiring a government permit to prospect for precious minerals.

The right was eventually transferred to Canadian firm TVI Resource Development (Philippines) Inc., which started large-scale mining activities for gold and silver in late 2004.

According to tribal chieftain Ano Anang Inumerot, the Subanon people were never consulted and were not even informed by the mining activities which have displaced their sacred mountain.

"I speak as a Penuay (tribal chief) of my people when I say we, the people of Mount Canatuan, are against the company and its operations according to our practices," Anay said in a press conference that shattered last month's 7th Asia-Pacific Mining Conference.

Familiar refrain

Anay's complaint is a familiar refrain in a country with several highland tribes denied entry as mining ore is removed by unwanted invasion classes of tribal groups in indigenous peoples.

SPECIAL REPORT

According to MCM national secretary Isidoro Gargoyen, a 1998 study found that 5.9 percent of all ancestral domain applications were affected by mineral production sharing agreements (MPSA) and mining permits issued by the government.

"We are talking about 2.5 million hectares [of land] driven by mining," he said, adding that the MPSAs also encroached 61 percent of forests declared by the government as protected areas or "no-go" zones."

"If you take those areas, our country's forest cover will drop to less than 20 percent, from the 53 percent when the study was made almost a decade ago," Gargoyen said.

But all the group's angry protests, however, from mass rallies to court cases, the fatigue of local residents' mining camps, where participants survive in a cooperative's store about the industry's natural resources and excited about the demand that the provincial Chamber of Indigenous Peoples Affairs Office.

To some degree, the anti-mining groups have themselves to blame, especially for some extremist members involved in their environmental hand in the Bayo-Rapu Island mining accident in 2006.

In one incident, anti-mining groups presented to evidence that allegedly pointed by Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB)—and even briefly posed the way for its reopening, and gave a black eye to anti-mining groups.

ATM's spokesperson admits that there are differences of opinion on the mode of operating mining within their local residents, some of which are hard line and extremist.

"We are not against mining, per se," he said, explaining that his group's main concern covered mining firms that were non-responsive to their dealings/activities in the area. "We want zero-impact and zero-environmental impact."

"What we're against is the aggressive promotion of large-scale mining."

Figures that matter

Back at the mining summit, the criticism is directed not by figures drawing how Asian countries should benefit from China's outgoing and India's nascent economic growth.

In a presentation, Citigroup's Asia-Pacific head of metals and mining Alexander Hickmann said the consumption of base metals and bulk commodities in both countries were expected to rise dramatically as their economies grow.

By 2030, he said China would be the world's second largest economy and India, the fourth largest. "Together, they would account for a combined 19.22 percent of total world GDP [gross domestic product or the value of total economic output]," he said.

Industry moves forward

The banks said for businesses and the Philippines, which are Asian's richest countries in terms of mineral resources, he said. This, he added, was despite the strong anti-mining lobbies in both countries.

In absolute amounts, this could mean up to $6.5 billion in fresh equity investments for the country over the next four years, excluding the income that would be generated from the reinvested profits themselves.

Even Chamber of Mines of the Philippines president Benjamin Philip G. Romualdez was surprised by the anti-mining groups, which continue to hold "no holds-barred" examples of events that date back to the 1996 Marinduque mining accident.

"We have to move forward," Romualdez said, adding that enough safeguards were in place to protect the interests of all stakeholders.

"While your opinion counts, you don't stop the entire nation and move from there."

Canadian firm upbeat on Abra project

By Aloy N. Barros

SUMMIT PACIFIC MINERALS Inc., a Canadian mining firm, said it had found "significant" amount of gold and copper resources in its two additional drill holes in the Cayanga Project in Abra.

It is developing in the Philippine Stock Exchange, Mon Mining and Industrial Corp. said in an Oct. Olympus, had found in Cayanga mines to have additional ore, in terms of copper and gold resources, with the Baguio-Mankayan Gold-Copper District.

Located 18 kilometers from Cayanga, the Baguio-Mankayan area has about 600 million ounces of historic production and mineral resources.

Abra reported that following "excellent results from the first hole it drilled, the second and third holes on the main Cayanga deposit continue to show "significant drill-in depth gold and copper mineralization."

According to the disclosure, the second hole intersected 2.07 g/t of gold, 0.60 percent copper and 7.75 g/t of silver over a core length of 1,704 feet, while the third hole intersected 2.18 g/t of gold, 0.55 percent copper and 3.40 g/t of silver over a core width of 69 feet.

This deposit is available for expansion and drilling.

"In 2007, Olympus' projects would consist of step-out drilling designed to significantly expand the mineralized zone, as well as ground exploration programs to find other prospective target areas on the 40-sq.km. Cayanga property.

Preliminary mapping would also have a lot of potential areas in Cayanga that could still be explored.

Last year, Olympus entered in an option agreement with Abra Mining. The deed allowed Olympus to have a 60-percent stake in the Cayanga property, with Abra retaining a 40-percent ownership in the venture.

Olympus initially invested $6-million in the project for the exploration stage.

Bukidnon mining firm readies cash dividend

By Bernard W. Quevedo

CAGAYAN DE ORO-BASED PEARL Asian Mining Industries Inc. said it was preparing for a yearly issuance of cash dividends as it prepares to cut revenue of some $64,000 (about P39 million) from the Gango Gold Bank site in Bukidnon in the next six years.

PAMI, the same symbol it uses to trade in the PS from the Country Bullion Board, said in a statement that the properties was launched a 50-percent recovery at Gango, where an extensive mine evaluated at around a million metric tons and the mine was expected to produce for 56 years.

"PAMI's board will determine the final profit sharing-cash dividend for common shareholders as of record date June 30, 2007," the company said.

The cash dividend will be based on the year-to-date gold production and sales report as of July 31, 2007, but it was estimated to be around $0.00001 per share.

PAMI chief geologist Rojas initially said the Gango Gold Bank project was one of the promising prospects of the company.

The following statements were used in the computation of the dividend—net year gold production, net revenues, gold ore reserves of around 1,029,000 MT, cut-off average grade of 10 grams per ton of ore, 90 production recovery and a completed life span of 56 years.

Located in a batangas of the same name in Bukidnon, the Gango Gold Bank site, covers a total land area of 19 hectares with 25 existing tunnels operated by members of the local small scale miners' cooperative as well as an operational gold processing plant on site.

SM unit plans …

From page B3

district, a seven-tower condominium cluster on North Edsa, that will offer 9,393 units, the 51.4-billion Berkshire Residences, a 35-story condominium along Katipunan Avenue, Quezon City, and the P324 million Lindenwood Residences, a 22-hectare subdivision near Alabang.

Underwood is in partnership with the Mitsubishi family (the landowner of the project). Lindenwood will offer 100 low-averaging at 150 square meters each and priced at P3.3 million to P7 million.

SMDC chair Henry Sy Jr. also announced that the company was studying the possibility of building up a middle-cost condominium on its 14-hectare property in Tagaytay to offer affordable mid-quality second homes.

Vehicle sales up 18% in first 5 months to 44,522 units

From page B3

sector, which includes the subcategories of AUVs, light commercial vehicles, light trucks, and trucks and buses, accounted for 62 percent of total sales.

All four subcategories showed improvements with sales of AUVs going up 27.3 percent to 13,403 units and of light commercial vehicles—consisting of pickups, vans, cargo space utility vehicles—by 17.7 percent to 15,140 units. The remainders sold 888 units of light trucks or 49.8 percent higher while buses took 392 units of trucks and buses or 49.2 percent better.

Turnover of passenger cars increased 10 percent to 11,599 units due to promotional packages, improved stock level and new models introduced in 2006.

In terms of total sales, Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. kept the lead with 39.2 percent of the market. It sold 17,447 units or an increase of 15.1 percent.

Honda Cars Philippines Inc. was second with 14.9 percent of the market with sales reaching 6,631 units or 52.2 percent higher.

Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp. placed third with 12.6 percent of the market, selling 5,638 units or an increase of 16.4 percent.

Besa and De Guzman duo CD launched

DELIA KAMBOA BESA AND ARANDELA Gregorio de Guzman first met as music students in St. Scholastica's College. In 1973, they were invited to perform in the Manila Grand Opera House Tino Rossi and Gloria Romero at the 10th anniversary of the school's St. Cecilia's Concert. Thus, began a partnership that has lasted to the present, during which time they are credited with many first performances in the Philippines of pieces in the duo-piano repertoire, including a number specially arranged for them. They have given performances in many important venues in Metro Manila, in major cities throughout the country, and in several important cities in the US.

Now, a recording of Filipino music by two pianos was recently launched in Makati City and recorded live at the Cultural Center of the Philippines in December, 2006. It documents pieces that are standards in the concert repertoire of the two pianists, compositions that have been arranged for two pianos, and original compositions from folk songs, Latin-American classics, and American popular music—influences that helped shape the unique technique that is Filipino music today.

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Asia stocks recover, bonds calmer after sell-off

Investors seen to resume riskier trades

In May, China trade surplus up by 73%

BEIJING—CHINA'S EXPORTS by trade surplus soared 73 percent in May from a year ago, a state news agency reported Monday, amid US pressure on Beijing for action on its yawning trade gap or face possible sanctions.

Exports exceeded imports by US$22.5 billion, the Xinhua News Agency said, citing data from China's customs agency.

That figure, close to the all-time record high recorded earlier this month, marks a surplus of US$8.2 billion reported in October, same despite repeated Chinese pledges to take steps to narrow the gap by boosting imports and a trend in lowered export growth.

The report gave no details of imports or exports.

The US government has been pressing Beijing for action, repeatedly chops in value the value of the Chinese currency. Critics say the yuan is kept undervalued, giving Chinese exporters an unfair advantage and adding to the country's growing trade gap.

Yesterday, Chinese share prices shared 2.11 percent higher as concerns eased that the government may introduce more measures to cool the market, dealers said.

They said the benchmark Shanghai index climbed for a fifth straight session amid growing investor confidence that the government will avoid further share sales or other adjustments to the market. AFP

Opec has no plans to release more oil

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA—The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries has no immediate plans to release more oil into the market ahead of its next policy meeting in September, head of international said Monday.

"Now there is sufficient crude oil in the market, there is no shortage of crude oil," Iranian Minister of Petroleum Kazem Vaziri-Hamaneh said on the sidelines of an oil-and-gas conference in Malaysia.

Globally, commercial oil inventories, including in the United States, "are to a very high level," he said in remarks that reflect current Opec thinking that the group wants to see global oil stocks being drawn down more on a way to shore up prices.

Hamaneh said "for current practice" if benchmark crude oil prices held rise to record highs.

In late 2006, oil prices hit a record high of US$78.40 a barrel.

Yesterday, oil prices edged higher, as dealers eyed a Friday opportunity after a sharp slide, with worries remaining over US statistics' gasoline supplies.

London Brent crude next as more representative of the global market, rose 19 cents to $68.73 a barrel as at 0432 GMT, after plunging by $2.62 on Friday amid a continued rise sell-off on fears of slower economic growth. US crude rose 15 cents to $64.30 after a $2.17 drop.

Top oil exporter Saudi Arabia has said in June there that it will keep supplies steady, showing no signs of encouraging cartel members to pumping extra barrels. AFP, Reuters

IRANIAN Minister of Petroleum Kazem Vaziri Hamaneh at the 12th Asia Oil and Gas Conference in Kuala Lumpur.

UK group hits Google over privacy practices

SAN FRANCISCO—WEB search leader Google Inc's commitment to consumer privacy came under fire from a key international, a British activist group that has previously angled out Google for criticism.

The group released a report on Thursday entitled 'A Race to the Bottom—Privacy Ranking of Internet Service Companies' that rates Google above among 23 sites, as having an "extraordinary hostility to privacy."

Microsoft Corp's Google, Google, the firm gathers information about a customer's tastes, interests and beliefs that could potentially be used by third parties such as advertisers, that the company says it never passes on to any individuals.

While the report details a handful of specific concerns, the main threat Privacy International spells out is Google's growing dominance in scope as the world's largest provider of Web searches.

Google said the latest report was mistaken.

"We are disappointed with Privacy International's report which is based on numerous inaccuracies and misunderstandings about our services," Nicole Wong of Google said in a statement. Reuters

In China, telcos fear commercial dead-end

BEIJING—CHINA IS LEVERaging its position as the world's largest mobile telecoms market to create a homegrown third-generation wireless standard, but the technology may prove a commercial dead-end for the firms entangled in it.

Although billions of dollars in contracts will be on offer once long-awaited 3G wireless licenses are awarded, analysts say the project succeeds by developing its own high-speed wireless system many more to pull the plug on the homegrown fight.

"This is a strategic setback, it's a matter of national security and pride," said Francis Gurry, the head of Switzerland-based United Nations body. "It doesn't need to be a commercial success."

China is loathe to hand dependent on foreign firms that control key technologies, and the attendant royalty payments, and wants to ensure domestic firms such as ZTE Corp. enjoy a bigger share of its potentially vast 3G market.

That's what spurred development rather than copy of its own standard, TD-SCDMA, which the other systems offer faster Internet access than second-generation technology currently used by most handsets.

But despite government backing, the long-term success of the technology depends on it competing against two massive standards that dominate global telecoms markets and already have the support of the world's handset makers.

"I have a very difficult time predicting if this will be a success over within China," said Jake Lynch, the industry analyst for Macquarie Securities based in Hong Kong.

That is bad news for telecoms giant Datang Telecom Technology Co. and ZTE and the players of top services sponsor China Mobile Ltd., the key corporate backers of the network.

Datang is focusing almost solely on TD-SCDMA. (Time Division Synchronous Code Division Multiple Access), while ZTE and Huawei Technologies Co. Ltd. are hedging their bets with development of the most standards and other technologies.

China Mobile is the world's largest mobile operator in terms of subscribers, adding to a total of almost half a billion.

But the network might only be viable if handset makers get closely involved in the state and other lower tier applications.

China has four companies at bay by delaying the launch of 3G, and may ask TD-SCDMA operators to keep certain networks, such as cdmaOne and lower running fees, just as it has offered preferential taxes to ensure corporate survival. Reuters

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INQUIRER

Move to bring down money supply growth to below 20%

By Michelle V. Ramos

ABOUT ₱200 BILLION WORTH OF EXCESS liquidity in the system has so far been mopped up by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas using monetary tightening measures, a supplemental oil in May, a ranking official of the central bank said.

The estimate was reported during the Monetary Board's meeting last Thursday, the official said.

One of the tools used by the BSP in tightening off excess liquidity in the system was its special deposit account, which offers "attractive" interest rates.

In early May, the BSP changed the rules governing its special deposit account or SDA, allowing trust departments of banks and even non-bank government-owned and -controlled corporations access to this facility.

SDA offers interest rates higher than yields on government securities of the same tenors.

With measures such as the SDA, the BSP aims to bring down the growth in domestic liquidity to below 20 percent.

Previously, trust departments of banks were not allowed to directly deposit to the BSP. Government-owned and -controlled corporations were allowed to deposit directly to the BSP but they used to enjoy rates that were only similar to government securities rates.

In April, money, as measured by the M3, grew by 26.4 percent from year-ago level.

According to monetary authorities, a liquidity growth of beyond 20 percent puts the government's inflation targets at risk of being breached.

M3 is a broad measure of money that includes cash in circulation, demand deposits, savings accounts, small-denomination time deposits, money market accounts, foreign-currency deposits and repurchase agreements.

The BSP, whose mandate includes ensuring the stability of consumer prices, has set a target of limiting inflation at between 4 and 5 percent this year, and between 3 and 5 percent next year.

Inflation for the month of this year, inflation averaged at 2.7 percent, well on track to staying below the government's target.

But while inflation has so far been benign, BSP officials said making moves to contain the liquidity growth was necessary to ensure there would be no substantial threats to inflation targets.

The source said the BSP was hoping the implementation of new monetary measures would immediately bring down liquidity growth to below 20 percent.

High liquidity growth typically fuels increases in aggregate demand for goods and services, which could trigger second-round inflation.

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Gov't urged to address labor-skill mismatch issue

THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND Development Authority (Neda) has called on the government to implement measures that will address the problem on labor-skill mismatch, saying this was one of the reasons why the effects of high economic growth have not trickled down to the masses.

Neda Director General Romulo Neri said this problem was substantial enough to derail the government's efforts to bring down the unemployment rate.

He said that while there were a lot of jobs available, the inquiry stores did not match the qualifications of many of the unemployed members of the labor force.

According to the National Statistics Office (NSO), the unemployment rate stood at 7.8 percent as of January this year. This means that of the about 36.4 million members of the labor force, some 3.0 million were unemployed.

Neri said there were a lot of available jobs in the financial services and business process outsourcing industries. There were also many companies requiring people who have skills in information technology.

However, he said, only a small fraction of the country's fresh graduates are considered to be those who are skilled in these areas.

Neri said the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda) had programs to address the problem. He added though that these programs had to be intensified to get the desired result of trimming the unemployment rate.

Such programs include talks with colleges and universities on the labor mismatch problems and encouraging them to offer courses that are needed most by businesses.

Neri said schools should likewise conduct talks with students and their parents to guide them on the kind of courses are advisable to take. Elizabeth V. Pazzibugan

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AIM OKs outsourcing deal

THE ASIAN INSTITUTE OF Management has transferred its Asian Center for Entrepreneurship or ACE program unto and brand to five of its professors under an outsourcing agreement.

The move coincides with the establishment of ACE Inc., which will run the AIM brand for its management and enrollment programs.

The AIM agreement with professors Ricardo Morato, Emma Lopez, Alejandrino Ferreria, Emelio Antonio and Francisco Bernardo II covers the Master in Entrepreneurship (ME) degree program, along with other consultancy and certificate programs. The move is in line with AIM's ongoing restructuring efforts that will expand its revenue offerings.

The five professors are credited for their contributions in the development of small-scale entrepreneurship programs.

Under the deal, ACE Inc. will continue to manage the ongoing ME 11 until it's graduation. ME 12 program will also be offered under the AIM framework.

AIM president Francis G. Estrada expressed confidence in the expected outcome of the agreement based on the institute's commitment to enhance its entrepreneurship programs.

"AIM will continue to offer its core finance to Entrepreneurship degree program beyond the full graduation of eighth ACE Inc. after the conclusion of 2013, in December 2008," Estrada said.

"The new AIM entrepreneurship program will combine the academic rigor that the institute's degree programs have been known for with the risk-taking and other characteristics of real world entrepreneurship," he added.

Mirant sale gets Napocor nod

THE BOARD OF THE STATE-RUN National Power Corp. has finally given its formal consent to the sale of Subic-based Mirant Corp.'s Philippine assets to the tandem of Malaysia's Hopewell Holdings and Tokyo Electric Power Co., Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said.

"Following this, a report will be submitted to the [National] Economic and Development Authority Investment Coordination Committee," he said, explaining that this would just be to inform the Cabinet-level body of Napocor's formal approval of the sale.

Earlier, Napocor president Cyril del Callar said the state firm had at least "price knowledge (of) and price consent" to any transaction that Mirant would consummate with regard to the sale of its Philippine assets.

He said the sale became the talk of Mirant's move to another entity would derail the viability of the company's independent power producer obligations to the buyer.

Mirant, however, maintained that it did not require consent from the government to consummate the sale, as the Subic-based company was not selling its assets in the Philippines but the shares of its offshore firm.

The sale would not affect the corporate structure of the 1,200-megawatt (MW) Unit and 735-MW Pagbilao coal-fired power plant, Mirant added.

The Mariveles-based power firm was also edged out this week other bidder for Mirant Philippines—the joint venture between Malaysia's Tanjong Plc and Ores Energy.

Manila-based Mirant has now decided to focus its offshore assets and focus on its Asian energy projects.

LIFESTYLE
Editor Chela Batad-Formoso

IN THIS ISSUE
Why workout may fail/D2

"IT'S all about passion, patience and perseverance," says Dr. Agnes Budiola Cleto.

THE ART of the dentistry. The reception area speaks of the clinic's unique approach to patient care.

A visit to the dentist you won't mind making

Keeping a patient relaxed makes the experience pleasant for the client and lets the doctor work quickly

Text by Brian A. Jacinto
Photos by Raoul Katsuri

A YOUNG CAMILLE Rickets among posed plants in the reception area. Soon the scent of peppermint blankets the cozy little office.

Muted lights gently filter into the room to reveal nude sketches by artist Nicolo Nuno on the walls.

A client arrives for his appointment and is welcomed like royalty. He is promptly offered a comfortable pair of slippers and a complimentary drink of his choice.

Minutes later he is whisked off to the pamper room where a professionally trained masseuse gives him a good neck, shoulder, hands-and-back rub.

But the busy executive did not get here for a massage. He actually had a dental appointment. That's right. He was seeing his dentist.

In the car on the dentist chair, he was given a relaxing leg and foot massage as the dental professional tended to his mouth.

"The minimal strain in hardly the place where you would expect to find that you already know what's coming. It is our job to make the process as comfortable as possible for the patient," said Dr. Agnes Budiola Cleto, DMD, founder of The Dentist Spa Manila at 1103 The Medical Plaza Building, Amorsolo corner Le Roy Streets, Legaspi Village, Makati (tel. 8926705).

EASY DOES IT. A good massage makes the trip to the dentist a pleasant experience.

Childhood trauma

Cleto's decision to set up a different kind of dental clinic was prompted by her experiences as a child.

Like many children, she feared the dentist the most. A traumatic experience on the chair led to a vow that she would try to make the experience pleasant if and when she became a dentist.

"We are always conscious of how comfortable we are as patients. If that lingers and lives solid in you for some time," Cleto said.

The message goes a long way in calming clients. Many patients fall asleep a few are so relaxed they even snore.

For Cleto, keeping a patient relaxed is a win-win situation. She and her team get to work quickly and effectively without worrying about their patients' well being; patients feel refreshed and relaxed after the visit they willingly return for their next appointment.

"We are really meant to see the dentist—kids and adults alike. And I cannot do my job if the patient is too tense or scared. The massage routines and dramatic items that they hardly notice are getting inside their mouths," she said.

HUMOROUS. Tic, as viewed from the dentist chair

Cleto studied and practiced dentistry for 10 years in the United States and was administrator of the Princeton Center for implant Institute in New Jersey. But it was her post-graduate training at the elite Dankey Institute for Advanced Dental Education in Bay Seahaven, Florida that changed her perspective.

Dankey is a by-invitation-only education institution. The only alumna from the Philippines so far, Cleto said Dankey changed her perspective from microscopic to macroscopic.

She learned the total-body system approach: The teeth did not function by themselves but together with the bones, gums, facial muscles, ear, jaws.

Comprehensive evaluation

Thus, a first-time client undergoes a comprehensive evaluation. This includes behavioral assessment (Cleto has a degree in psychology), clinical examination, radiographs and diagnosis.

What counts most is the ability to express ourselves.
Learn from the very best!
Study at:
VERNON TAPALLA'S

THE BEER BELLY REDUCER

Fast And Easy Inch-Loss For Men

For men who want to lose that bulging and unsightly belly quickly and easily, now there is a solution! Plastic surgeons have invented a machine that can "melt away" stubborn tummy fat in a patient's lunchbreak – **ULTRASHAPE**. This treatment gets rid of unwanted bulges and, unlike liposuction, does not require surgery. It's very effective in removing excess stomach fat, love handles or fat in other areas.

FAST, EFFECTIVE and SAFE. It's the most advanced non-invasive method of fat reduction to date. It works by focusing high frequency ultrasound waves from outside the body to targeted areas. These ultrasound waves break down fat cells without damaging blood vessels or other tissues. The fat cells are then eliminated through natural processes over a period of about 3 weeks, in the same way the body eliminates the discolorations from a bruise.

Ultrashape was founded 5 years ago in USA by Ami Glicksman M.D., formerly a senior plastic surgeon and Israeli Eshel, PHD, MBA, a leading expert in high-power ultrasound technology. When they developed Ultrashape, it was well known that ultrasound waves were able to break down and destroy fat cells, releasing the fat contained within them. Glicksman and Eshel built on that to come up with the unique concept of Ultrashape.

Ultrashape is the first and only non-surgical fat-destroying treatment. It promises a reduction of up to 2 cm. in a single session. It is such a hassle-free procedure. You walk in, get the treatment and go straight to your next appointment. It's as easy as that. Absolutely no anesthesia, no pain and no recovery is needed. Patients can resume their normal activities right after a treatment. It does not have the risks of liposuction and can be used to effectively deal with problem areas of fat.

Ultrashape promises an average loss of about 2 cm. in a single treatment.

Normally about 6 or 8 sessions are recommended to fully achieve the result required. Both men and women who have tried it were impressed by the immediate results after just a single session. Proven effective, Ultrashape is definitely a breakthrough in fat reduction.

Ultrashape is now available at **Marie France FOR MEN**. Call 813-7989 for your free consultation. All consultations and treatments are strictly conducted in private.

THE GOAL: Optimum oral health ensures "gratuitous" portions to a point that they are no only for portable maintenance work.

A visit to the dentist you won't mind making

From page C1

dental cards.

Establishing dental cost is the primary objective at this stage, she said.

The comprehensive clinical evaluation that follows includes knowing the patient's medical and dental history, examination of the teeth, gums and soft tissues, including any aesthetic considerations such as the number of restoratives, occlusion, temporomandibular joint (TMJ), and head and neck structures.

An appropriate written treatment plan is discussed with the patient, detailing optimal function, comfort, health and esthetics. Treatment, said Chico, would be monitored with the patient's circumstances, objectives and requirement.

"We have to make sure patients would be able to keep the teeth we restored. What good is a restored tooth if the gums and bones cannot hold it for long?" Chico said.

Chico observes patients' maintenance and hygiene practices to detail each one patient at a time. Chico has only seen dental clinics in the clinic. She does not stick to traditional and spends time with her patients.

Oral-care training

"I never time to remember you. If I can convert just one non-flossing patient into a flossing demon that would really make my day," she said.

One of Chico's interests upon her return to the country was the low level of oral-care awareness of Filipinos, the chairflossing as example.

"Flossing removes your gums. Like losing your teeth, flossing saves your gums, too. Blood circulation improves and accumulation of plaque under the gums is prevented. Yet flossing has never been talked about as much as brushing or using mouthwash," she said.

Chico, who had almost destroyed of opening a low-volume, no-fee service, ultra-conservative dental clinic in the country fulfilled her dream with the Oriental Spa Manila.

She said the experience at the clinic is "what I would like to be in a dental office—from assistance to the patient's needs, quality care, attention to detail, healthcare. I feel my mission is personified if patients don't come back for treatments but for maintenance," she said.

E-mail the author at ajcorbero@inquirer.com.ph

INDULGENCE: The Pamper rooms designed to make the owners feel cool in the busy mind. Being part of the chain's service, massages anytime.

A good night's sleep isn't just about number of hours

SLEEP HELPS THE BODY COPE with the day's activities. But it is not just how long a person sleeps that matters but also how well.

Ivanna Calamiong, entrepreneur and Indonesian Texas Pastel-Nikkei agrees. "Seriously, I get four to six hours on weekdays, and three to four on weekends but it is not about the quantity but the quality of rest."

Yoga helped her overhaul her pampering and sleeping habits after people she employed the duty.

She said Tempur also helped her sleep better. "Tempur pillow really conforms to the body. They have the right angle and contour to make people sleep properly."

Golden is so happy with Tempur that she uses it in her wellness center, Ultan Spa.

At Ultan Spa, no one is given quick, personalized service. We have arranged our Tempur pillows for customers who get a full-body massage. Actually, they lie on their backs. It helps."

She said: "No one have the Tempur Sleep Mask. Among all of the products, this is the one I love. It is so good... It's just the right weight. It's just enough to cover the light, and it somehow makes you sleep better."

Golden said their list customers say the sleep mask mediates of the best. long treatment is also 30 minutes and the feedback had been positive.

Tempur, a product of Sweden, is an array of mattresses, pillows and accessories designed to improve comfort when sleeping, working, resting or relaxing. Described by some to be breathe through its deep science in the last 75 years, Tempur has been recommended by medical doctors, chiropractors, physiotherapists and osteopaths.

Tempur responds to the body's temperature and molds to the curves of the body to maintain the spine's natural alignment.

Studies indicate Tempur's unique pressure-relieving properties reduce tossing and turning during sleep by up to 80 percent.

The Tempur pillow molds to the natural contours of the head and neck, aligning them with the spine. The pillow has also been found to help relieve pain, minimize snoring and sleep disorders and provide the correct support for the neck.

The anatomical design and memory of provide minimum comfort to the neck area, allowing the neck and shoulder muscles to relax completely, helpful to people with back pains.

"I was dedicated to discuss the Tempur system," Dr. Weber Brath, a chiropractor said. "I have seen many patients with back and neck pain and spinal problems, and I have found that the right sleeping system is helpful in preventing recurring neck and back problems."

He said he had been recommending Tempur products to his patients and had achieved excellent results in easing their neck and back problems.

Tempur, established in 85 countries, has a showroom at the S/L, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Edsa cor. Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong. Call 9511393.

Health benefits of brown rice tea

EARLY TIBETANS, ACCORDING TO legend, developed a variety of blends from herbs and natural food to combat the freezing weather and this recipe is in the mountains of Tibet.

Among the exotic food and drinks that survived the test of time became non other but come to be known as brown rice tea.

Today, a lot of health-conscious people and health-aware cafes occasionally use brown rice in the United States as health food, continue to patronize it.

A survey indicates 46 percent of overweight Filipinos and 4.7 percent who are obese benefit from this drink.

Tejon Asia Corp., he sole distributors of the Singapore-based Shaffi tradition Int'l Pte. Ltd., produces Brown Rice Tea. It consists of 100-percent all-natural ingredients and is based on the traditional recipe.

Aside from natural ingredients, the tea has no cholesterol, no caffeine, no salt and sugar, no preservatives, and no known side effects. Its main component, high-grade brown rice from Thailand, has licorice root helps provide the best 70 enzyme-important and also other calcium-blood-sensitive promote better circulation. Both traditional Chinese medicines enhance the beverage's health benefits.

The tea also helps reduce excess bulge, relax the body relieve stress and improves sleep.

Considered safe for all ages, Brown Rice Tea can be mixed with sugar, noodles and food, or ingested in regular tea.

It is now available in 1M Supermarket, Mahogany Supermarket, The Landmark, Wilcon's and all leading groceries and supermarkets nationwide. Visit www.tejonasiacorp.com for more.

Natural solutions to bad breath

CHRONIC HALITOSIS? TOOTH-aches keeping you up at night? Smoking or drinking leaving your mouth dry and your breath sour?

We need not to suppress products to keep your teeth and gums healthy and your breath fresh.

In addition to brushing and flossing, nature may have the solution to your problem.

Tea tree oil is used by many dentists as a mouthwash and for treating cankers before filling. Taken from the leaves of the melaleuca alternifolia, which is native to Australia, the oil is a potent natural antiseptic that has been used for hundreds of years.

Myrrh, widely known as one of the gifts to the Baby Jesus, is an extract that is plant originally from East Africa. Found beneficial for treating sore throat and bronchitis, it can also help freshen breath and treat gum disease.

Thyme has antiseptic qualities to battle mouth ailments. Many herbalists recommend its use to ease stiff neck complex and treat sore throats and inflamed gums.

Chamomile, known as one of the world's most calming herbs, can also help relieve mouth ulcers and bleeding and swollen gums. It also heals mouthsores.

Peppermint does not only have fresh scented mint that is an antiseptic mouthwash but it also has antiseptic properties, that can help soothe a mild sore, flavorful odor-stopped.

Propolis or "bee glue" has natural antimicrobial and antibacterial properties. It smoothens with propolis cream or gel to plaque formation and bacteria in the mouth. It can relieve dental pain and gum inflammation. It also acts as antimicrobial agent to help heal the mouth more, relieving the moisture effectiveness.

Xylitol is a sweet sugar found in the bark of birch trees, in many fruits and vegetables. It is also produced by the human body. Unlike regular sugars, Xylitol is not damaging to oral health. It restores the pH balance and inhibits many growth in the mouth.

Though it looks and tastes like sugar, it has 40 percent fewer calories and 75 percent less cholesterol.

Program helps ease effects of cerebral palsy

MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT CEREBRAL palsy (CP) affect some 15 million worldwide are many.

Often characterized by difficulty with fine motor tasks such as maintaining balance and walking, as well as involuntary movements like uncontrollable swinging of the hands or drooling, cerebral palsy results from injuries to the developing brain at any time during pregnancy, birth or until the age of 3.

At its most severe, cerebral palsy may result in virtually no muscle control, profoundly affecting movement and speech.

Izabela Kraiselburd, co-creator of The Hands, the latest intervention in cerebral palsy management, came across the many misconceptions when her daughter Kaya was diagnosed with the condition.

She said many doctors were pessimistic, telling her daughter could not expect to do certain things.

But Kraiselburd did not give up. With the help of intensive oral therapy using Theraband, her daughter can play the violin and the piano and even perform physically demanding activities like rock climbing.

Kraiselburd's daughter was not the only one helped by Theraband. A 6-month study conducted among 20 children, it was found that 100 percent doubled the Theraband program with notable improvements in range of motion and strength.

Some children were trained to crawl, stand independently and walk with assistive devices or by themselves.

The Hypnobirth Healing Institute first used only Hypnobirth Origami Therapy but now included and therapy as its rehabilitation program for adults afflicted with cerebral palsy.

At present, there is no known cure for cerebral palsy but awareness and information regarding its management helps break stereotypes surrounding the condition.

Your Doctor Knows Best

Cecilia S. Wenceslao, MD, MSoCTM, FPCP, FPSMD

Question:

My son's playmate was recently admitted in the hospital for Dengue. Is it possible that my son also has Dengue since he is having fever for three days now?

Doctor Says...

Dengue Fever is Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever, also known as El Fever, is an acute viral illness that is transmitted from the bite of a mosquito.

The Dengue virus has four serotypes, which means there are four different types of the virus. Infection in a person with one type does not protect him from the other types of the virus. An individual can even get dengue up to four times in his lifetime.

Dengue is usually transmitted by mosquitoes in rare cases through blood transfusion.

The dengue infection's incubation is dependent on the Philippines. Once bitten by a mosquito, it takes from 3 to 14 days before the virus starts to appear. Symptoms usually appear suddenly. Some patients may only have one grade fever and very mild symptoms, which disappear in 1 to 2 days.

For those without complication persons, they will have "flushed" skin, abdominal pain, and some bleeding tendencies, such as nose bleeding, gum bleeding or stomach and skin bleeding, manifested in black (dark) stools. Patches of petechiae (tiny red spots) may appear on the skin. Some patients may have severe bloody urine, while pick may experience profuse menstrual bleeding. If left untreated, some patients will bleed profusely and go into SHOCK.

Dengue is a self-limiting disease. Most dengue infections can be treated as an outpatient case at the clinics and with homes, but quite a number of specific questions about himself, I would rather not respond to interpret his or my son's doctor.

Sorry, for inquiries or books, pain, suicidal services and seminars on Brain Mind Development 101 and Intuition Development, and Soulmates, Karma & Reincarnation conducted by the author, please call 819-7347, 09283830, or fax 813-9890.

E-mail the author at consumeraffairs_2005@yahoo.com.ph.

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INSIDE OUT
Cory Quirino

Learn to say yes & no to stay trim

IT IS A PERENNIAL DILEMMA—HOW TO stay slim in a fattening, sinful world of gastronomic temptations. But the solution is as simple as 1-2-3.

Ready for the pointers?

Say yes

Learn to say "yes." Not a limp, unimpressive yes, but one with conviction and energy. So, say yes! Pilita style. Tevdan!

Really. Simple—This is the first starting point. And it is here where the battle of the bulge begins and ends.

There is no point in being rude if you are unlovable because we all know that, eventually you may end up in the sick bed.

It is very easy to say "no" to almost you, but evaluate its love—the bad and unsolicited for the product but safe measure.

Grab diets include such methods like deprivation. Example: skipping meals alleged to be feeding on cool protein (which can sacrificed your kidneys), advocating on caffeine or fat-burning supplements/energy boosters like prohibited drinks, exercise boring.

While there was success in bringing down your weight and reducing inches from your own statistics, they will eventually lead to expected downsides, but considered dubious.

You could suddenly collapse from lack of magnesium, potassium, and other vitamins and minerals.

So, before you begin any diet, keep your health in mind. Please. There is only one way to slim down and that is the natural way. Turn to vegetables and fruits. Practice moderation in everything you do. Don't forget exercise, good sleep, laughter and forgiveness.

Say no

Take as the sticky part. You are familiar with the oft-repeated quote: "If it's not sinful, it's fattening."

People often use this as a license. The idea being, since you are damned, if you do, damned if you don't, you might as well succumb to the irresistible temptation.

If you fall for this line, then you are committing a grave sin—against yourself. Saying no can be heroic; it brings you miraculous results.

Say no to excessive eating, drinking and partying, late meals, sleepless nights, chemically concocted "fat-busting supplements," exercises, cadavers, fakir-ness.

The hallway method

The key to a slimmer, healthier you is thinking and doing less.

Less of these can help:

Food (but not water. Rem: The human body can survive longer on no food than on no). The supposition is to appear underwhelming to others.

Imagine yourself as a hunter and there is a big tiger—50 percent discount on all items. The should be your attitude on all things delicious, including like desserts, sweets, cakes, pastries, carbohydrates-rich food, creamy sauce-rich food.

If you take only half of anything you consume (self-imposed), remember less calories. Isn't this an easy method to adopt so it does not deprive you of your favorite things but simply eating only half of everything you consume (sinful and fattening)?

Examples: Before you eat a plate of cheesecake, you can book a big slice and more. Or you can simply eat half of it slice—not half of the whole cake. Within four weeks of practicing this you can easily lose about three inches from your waistline and hips. And if you combine the set's daily exercise such as walking for 30 minutes, you get better and faster results.

'Yes' affirmation

Commit to yourself first. In your quiet moments, close your eyes and embrace the silence. Now say to yourself, "I grant myself the right to be healthier and happier beginning/today."

Great skin scrub

Mix in a bowl 3 tbsp of raw oatmeal, 1 tbsp virgin coconut oil, 2 tbsp cucumber juice (simply cut the cucumber in a blender and squeeze the juice out), after setting aside a cucumber for the face, rub briskly all over your body from feet to neck. Rub the face gently in upward motion, avoiding the eye area. Rinse and bathe.

And from you can try to change that—the rule of good health, you are saying yes to life, more importantly to yourself.

Love and light!

INNER AWARENESS
Jayne Lizarondo

Stalked by a spirit lover

I RECEIVED RECENTLY THE following urgent letter from a reader named Jeanette E. whose girlfriend abroad is being sexually molested by a spirit.

"I am writing to you in desperation. My friend's life been besmirched by a certain entity for seven-some years now.

"It started when she was finishing medical school. In the middle of the night, a spirit, who seemed to be a man, would get on top of her, as if to seduce her, until she would wake up.

"She would call me up crying, scared and not knowing what to do. It happened several times. She tried to live with it, until it became unbearable. Someone followed her to Nueva Ecija.

"Being an ardent Catholic, she cried praying while the spirit was on top of her, but it seemed it was mocking her.

"Upon the recommendation of a mother Manila, an took advice from a Muslim priest, who instructed her to say a prayer and give her blessed water to sprinkle around her apartment. After that, the spirit disappeared.

"Now that she is in the States (Jersey City, NJ), we thought it was unlikely it would follow her since the episodes stopped. But we were wrong. Since she left to America, she had three more episodes. And the entity was starting to take hers."

"Please help us. I myself feel helpless for I no longer know what to do, plus the fact that I cannot be there to her."

Sensitivity

There are women who amass spirits, sometimes negative ones without intending to. These are women whose shades or psychic centers (specially the third or solar plexus) are open and whose auras are not shielded. They are also usually very sensitive to the psychic forces but are weak-willed.

They are natural psychics without realizing it. Spirit entities—almost always of the opposite sex—are drawn to openings or vortexes in their energy field or vibratory level. These women become mediums or channels of the spirit.

It is all right if they can shield themselves from the lower and negative spirits and communicate only with higher positive ones. But usually they lack the ability to discern the spirits that come to them and they are open to the influences of negative ones.

Female lovers is quite usual. I am amazed to a living female became the victim resembles a woman the spirit fell in love with in the past lives/times. These spirits are just really desperate souls and they are the dangerous ones.

The first line of defense against spirit molestations and possessions is to strengthen one's will to fight and prevent them. Negative emotions like molesting or torturing one's body, a positive and confident attitude will help.

According to psychic Edgar Cayce, "If you align yourself to your highest ideal, that is, to our God, then no lower spirit can bother you. Some healers in the Philippines have suggested that the victims recite the 91st Psalm or the 23rd Psalm to protect him or her from spirit molestation. The wearing of the Asian Brazilian medal also has helped many victims of demonic possession. It is also good against snake bites and poisons."

Dreams

A reader from Lumbocan City named Abbey wants to know what it means if she dreams of was deported often. Her one-and-a-half year old boy died and members of her family often dream of him playing and laughing. "Does he want us tell us something? Is he truly happy in heaven?"

Dreams of newly deceased loved ones can be either messages depending on the ci-

(TURN TO C)

LIFESTYLE

Lessons from 'the one who wins the heart'

By Eunice G. Velarde

"WHERE ARE YOU FROM?" DMI asks gently.

"From the Philippines, Didi," I reply, a little short of breath. I've just walked a hundred meters to our goodbye in bed. I am seated once more at her feet.

"Philippines," she repeats softly, sweetly. I've never heard my mother's name spoken with such affection.

She doesn't know too much English – I was among some 12,000 people from all over the world that she addressed late night ago. She required no interpreter to speak, in an elaborate setup for further translations into about 15 languages and 11 hall-and-dialects.

It is my 12th trip to the main campus of that unique school, the Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University in Rajasthan, India. For those of "traditional" first 12 years, and still I feel there's much to explore.

DADI GULZAR. Dadi's Rhythm "takes us on." Below: music "runs parties."

'Silence is not the absence of thoughts; it is a state in which the mind is engaged in pure elevated thoughts'

Teaching and learning

We could learn something to love. We each have something to teach. For example, we are taught not to give advice. But also we should not take advice. If someone gives you unless freely, tell you take it? Tell me in all its forms, is like a cheap gift. When we refuse it, take the negative thoughts and bad feelings that people bind to, they will bear the brunt of giving them."

* * *

She is one of the three main teachers and co-administrators of the university. Her name is Dadi Gulzar, which means "the one who wins the heart." Dadi Ratan, both of respect for elder sisters, is most popularly known to 500,000 students around the world (350 of them in the Philippines) by the name Gulzar, which means "rose garden."

Dadi Gulzar was one of the original words in a small boarding school for girls set up in Sindh by the royal mother Indu Lalwani in 1937. In his own role, he was called Brahma Baba. The school was conceived on training in spiritual principles, and had the same way of quiet for 14 years. Dadi's practice has continued to this day, 70 years later.

"Brahma Baba used to say I was a shakar (small image of a deity made of silver or gold)," Dadi Gulzar said in a chat she conducted on Self-Respect, one of the most popular "courses" in the university. "That at a very young age, I had left a great sense of worth."

The aspect of the 14-year-boy came: their emphasized silence into the young Brahma's heart.

"I have always loved solitude—doing very quiet, being peaceful," she told the class. "Even as a child I spoke very little and very softly. I believe that, as a result, my intellect remained very clear. I could accurately catch whatever was being conveyed to me. That is the secret of clear communication, for each party to have a quiet and accepting mind."

* * *

"Silence is the seed of all power. It promotes clarity, which facilitates accurate decision-making."

Why not women?

The girls in Brahma Baba's boarding school ("Ganga" means daughter) were prepared to be spiritual teachers.

Dadi Gulzar recounted in class: "Where I was born, women played a secondary role in society. It's as if they were locked up—not to be seen or heard from. They were required to dress in a specific way, covered from head to toe with just enough opening for the eyes to see through. So many have lost it because, they had to travel under those very thick garments."

She continued: "Brahma Baba thought, 'Why shouldn't women be equal to men here?' Why should men be the only ones elected as office for God?' We realized women are more nurturing. They have the inherent qualities of tolerance, love and renunciation."

In 15, Dadi Gulzar discovered her ability to go into what she described as a "subtle dimension." She would step into that dimension, in order put it, pure soul before me the name and perhaps the world remember everything, which she then wrote down in full. The better to share with others the feelings of completeness, well-being and bliss—what might be imagined, she says, as "being a child sitting on God's lap"—that came with the experience.

"It came to me as right," she told the students, "and I accepted."

To the friends who listen to her, the soul girl is nine. Dadi Gulzar is able to convey those feelings, as though first, too, had taken the subtle journey. There's an average of 10,000 people each time, at least 20 times a year.

They come from everywhere, sometimes traveling for days, like the Russian students who come by the busload.

What started as a little school is now in 90 countries, with 8,000 centers teaching Raja Yoga meditation. Some of the largest communities of students outside of India are spiral from Russia, are in Australia, United Britain, the United States and Malaysia.

The utmost gatherings in the main campus are a study in harmony.

Mirror of values

"Learn to say 'yes' with every opportunity to cooperate. Weave every feelings of pure and happiness as well. We need never pick up any negativity. To get quiet means to let others dance our behavior."

* * *

"I'm here to take my leave, Dadi," I say.

She fixes me with a double, a loving gaze—five, maybe 10 seconds. The first time I experienced her double: two minds (each eye, others I sat in the front row in a huge hall, listening to her speak. She had looked straight at me and asked, "Will you ever learn the Bible?" I could not speak for the next 24 hours.

Now she is reminding me. "In peace you talk to the Father, in meditation you listen. You never need to ask anything. He will know what she wants her to do."

I caress regularly. I feel so...distant Parable ("star soul, before I can think. I blurt out, "To bring His child enough?"

Dadi motions for me to hold out my hand. She gives me a soft (green) and says softly, slowly, "God is your father, Mother, Teacher, Companion and Friend. Everyday, He offers you His company in all relationships, in all hours, except His office."

* * *

The Brahma Kumaris is a United Nations Peace Messenger, in an educational institution and an NGO. It has a consultative status with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco).

The Philippine service celebrates its 25th anniversary this year. To mark this milestone, Dr. Jr. Indira is participating in several international/supranational events in the country. Celebrations on March 29, June 10. The free public program is being directed by Fay Quintos, with celebrity hosts Jose Manalo, Tessie Tomas, Becky Lovous and Tommy Gonz.

Dadi Gulzar will address the audience. CAUSEWAY

Common exercise mistakes

Improper form, technique and breathing put you at risk of injuries

By Mitch Fulgo
Contributor

AFTER YEARS OF CAREFUL study and working with clients in various health clubs, I have compiled a list of the most common exercise mistakes that keep people from achieving the outcome they expect.

Knowing these mistakes is vital for those who want to get the most out of their workout.

Improper exercise form, technique and breathing

This puts you at risk of injuries to the lower back, knee and shoulder. Your progress might be slowed since only limited activities can be performed.

Learn to stabilize your muscles as you execute a particular exercise. For instance, keep your lower back flat on the bench or mat when executing abdominal crunches.

Incorporate proper breathing techniques into each move by inflating your stomach as you inhale and squeezing your abs as you exhale. This way you regulate the exercise speed, intensity and work on your core muscles at the same time.

Not knowing the correct exercise frequency, intensity and duration

Working out without any idea of the fitness intensity, exercise frequency and duration appropriate for you might defeat the purpose of your exercise and prevent you from improving fitness.

- Frequency—Train your muscles at least twice a week on alternate days doing a form of resistance training, at least three times a week doing aerobic workout, and low to moderate movements daily, such as walking throughout the day.
- Intensity—Check your pulse (heart rate) and try to maintain 60-75 percent of your maximum heart rate (220 minus your age) for at least 20 minutes to experience improvements in endurance, and to avoid over- or under-training.

To determine your heart rate without using a monitor, count the number of beats per minute by placing your index and middle finger over the thumb side of your opposite wrist, or place it on the neck just below the angle of your jaw.

- Duration—Ideally, you should do 30-60 minutes of aerobic training and 30-60 minutes of cardiovascular workout. Duration depends on your exercise goals and fitness level.

Doing too much, too soon

Although you should challenge your current fitness level to achieve improvements, overdoing can lead to serious injury and drop in performance.

Try to keep challenges modest but gradually progressive. As a rule of thumb, try to raise your current intensity by not more than 10 percent every week.

Doing repetitive exercise routines

Avoid doing the same workout every time you visit the gym. Change or modify your method of training, reps, sets, intensity every session. Variety is the key to sustaining motivation and interest. Taking up new challenges and harder goals are essential if you want to improve.

There are hundreds of exercise variations you can incorporate into your workout. Try doing sequential exercises using free weights, such as performing squats with biceps curls or lunges with side raises. This combination works more muscles in lesser time and burns more calories, too. Make sure you match variety with proper intensity.

Long exercise breaks

Socializing with friends may take a lot of your time. Focus on what you do at the moment. It is not the amount of time you spend inside the gym, but the amount of quality exercise you do that gets results.

Forcing yourself to do a particular exercise

You have numerous options aside from forcing yourself to do exercises that do not motivate you or does not match your taste. Why push yourself to use the bike and other cardio machines if you prefer dancing?

To avoid burnout, do what you enjoy most. This promotes adherence and compliance. For example, daily treadmill workouts can be replaced by jogging in your village park. The change in scenery can work wonders.

Lack of rest, insufficient food intake and dehydration

These factors are often responsible for sluggishness but they greatly affect performance. You need enough fuel in the form of rest, food and water to maximize your workouts.

Try to sleep more than six hours and have at least a day of rest to maximize training the following day.

Eat a light snack 30-60 minutes before and after you work out. Complex carbohydrates like a sandwich, small serving of pasta or rice with protein, or cereals are ideal for a pre- or post-workout snack.

Drink one cup of water 20 minutes before a workout and every 15 minutes during workout to rehydrate your body after losing water through sweat. This will also help you do your workout more efficiently.

The author is a licensed physical therapist and is the head consultant of the Lifestyle and Weight Management program of Fitness First Manila. She has a master's degree in psychology and is a certified personal trainer and group instructor by the American Council on Exercise.

SPECIALIST Inez Clarity creates spider veins.

Essential card for discounted service

CLARITY AESTHETIC AND Laser Center has launched the Clarity Essential card.

With the card, members can get for P1,500 Clarity's most popular sex treat that cost P9,000.

Gemma de Leon, sales and marketing director of Clarity Aesthetic and Laser Center, said the card was their way of thanking customers for their loyalty. It was also an opportunity to bring popular services to potential customers.

Clarity Essential Card entitles the patron to five sessions of some of the center's more popular services like Intense Diamond Peel and Facial Treatment. The offer ranges a skincare kit that includes Clarity's skin toner, sunblock gel, exfoliant, clarifying toner and facial scrub, as well as a consultation with a dermatologist.

Those who send of the Essential Card also get discounts on all procedures offered.

Gigi Gatu, marketing officer of Clarity Aesthetic and Laser Center, said they wanted to make the services affordable for everyone so more people would experience the center's expert pampering.

Clarity Aesthetic and Laser Center Ltd. 751-4929, www.clarityesm.ph/ is at Ilustre La Plaza Mall, SM City The Block and Robinsons Place Manila. Clarity Aesthetic and Laser Center is also located at Mall of Asia Market!, Alabang Town Center and at Festival Supermall.

INTENSE Diamond Peel is performed to exfoliate dead skin cells.

PUT on your running shoes as the 31st National Milo Marathon resumes.

Run for your health

NOW THAT SUMMER IS gone, it is time to leave water activities behind and pursue other health and wellness exercises, like running.

Experience the thrill of running in the 31st National Milo Marathon on June 24 in General Santos City.

The latest edition of the country's biggest running event began Feb. 4 in Batangas and has already been staged in Palawan, Tarlac and Misamis, Bulacan. Some 28,000 runners participated in the first legs of the marathon.

Nestlé summer vice president (MW) and Milo commuter marketing manager Michelle Cito-Alvarillo said people were scouting the re-

gions for the National Milo Marathon. Milo MW for sports events Pat Gee-ong said they expected more people would participate in the remaining legs.

Last year's marathon had a total of 146,538 runners, exceeding the target of 102,000.

After General Santos, the 31st National Milo Marathon will be staged in Zamboanga, July 1; Davao, July 8; Manila, July 22; Tagbilaran, July 29; Tacloban, Aug. 5; Cebu, Aug. 12; Dumaguete, Aug. 19; Roxas, Aug. 26; Iloilo, Sept. 2; Naga, Sept. 9; Legaspi, Sept. 16; San Pablo, Sept. 23; Cagayan de Oro, Sept. 30; Baguio, Oct. 7; Butuan, Oct. 14; Lucena, Oct. 21; Tuguegarao, Oct. 28, and Dagupan, Nov. 4.

The National Finals will be held in Manila on Nov. 18.

The National Milo Marathon has seven events: Elite for the 5K Kiddie Run, the 10K Fun Run, 5K Mirilla Run (Private and Inter), 10K Run (Metro Manila Run), 21K (Half Marathon) Provincial Elimination Races, and a 42.195K Full marathon (Metro Manila Elimination and Final Races).

Other fun events like the Biggest School Delegation Contest, Inter-School Running Team Competition, as well as the much-anticipated Cheerdancer Competition, add more excitement to the affair.

The 31st National Milo Marathon is being held in partnership with Rayview Park Hotel Manila, Adidas and the Department of Tourism.

Take precautions against rat-borne leptospirosis

THE RAINY SEASON, ESPECIALLY THE flooding that occurs, increases the risk of leptospirosis, a potentially deadly disease caused by water contaminated by rat urine or feces carrying leptospira bacteria.

Leptospirosis can be contracted by swallowing contaminated food or water or through skin contact, especially when the skin is broken.

Fever, dry cough, blisters and abdominal pain often mark the early stage of the disease. Symptoms, like high fever, sensitive tissue of either illnesses that the disease is often misdiagnosed.

Untreated, leptospirosis can lead to kidney damage, meningitis, liver failure and respiratory distress. In some cases it is fatal.

As a preventive measure against leptospirosis and other rat-borne diseases, Bayer, makers of the Racumin Rodent Control System, suggests the control of rodents to reduce the risk to public health and safety.

Leptospirosis, though occurring worldwide, is more common in tropical climate countries hit by heavy rainfall and flooding.

The bacteria has required a wet environment that is why more cases are reported during the rainy season.

It takes one-three weeks for symptoms to appear. The disease usually begins with high fever accompanied by severe headache, chills, muscle aches and vomiting.

Jaundice (yellow skin and eyes), red eyes, abdominal pain, diarrhea or a rash may also be observed.

Patients who do not receive proper treatment in time may show signs of recovery for a short period only to experience the more severe second phase of the disease that may include meningitis, kidney and liver failure.

Many symptoms, especially at the early stages, can be mistaken for other diseases. Laboratory testing of clinical or urine sample has to be done to confirm the presence of the disease. The disease is treated with antibiotics.

The risk of leptospirosis can be reduced by avoiding contact with contaminated source. Protective clothing or footwear should be worn when exposed to contaminated water or soil.

Communities have to control rat and mice populations.

The Racumin Rodent Control System from Bayer can help control rodent populations.

CHILDREN should be allowed to play only in clean water to protect them from disease.

Each Racumin product contains Coumatetralyl that directly kills rats or they do not develop "bait shyness" to consume the poisonous substance. The Racumin Tracking Powder may be used as bait but also doubles as a tracking powder to determine areas where rats hide. The Racumin Ready Made Bait will draw rodents while the Racumin Paste is easy-to-use sachets can be placed in suspected hiding places.

Get your calcium in 'slices'

CALCIUM IS THE MOST ABUNdant mineral in the body comprising two percent of body weight.

Some 99 percent of calcium is in the bones and teeth; only one percent in the blood and tissue cells.

While calcium is widely known to make bones and teeth strong, many do not realize that the body's reserve of the mineral gets depleted as people grow older.

Much of the calcium is stored in the bones until age 20. In the 30s to the mid-50s, when the bone mass reaches peak levels, the skeleton needs to be strength-ened to prevent deterioration and to protect against diseases like osteoporosis or brittle bones.

Thus, the body's calcium supply needs to be constantly replenished.

According to the World Health Organization and the Philippines' Food and Nutrition Research Institute, the recommended daily calcium intake varies according to a person's age and condition.

The average adult needs 750 mg; the elderly and pregnant and lactating women require 800 mg, and children and teenagers, 1,000 mg.

Certain leafy green vegetables, fruits and legumes contain significant amounts of nutrient. But milk and its by-products like yogurt, cheese, etc., are the major calcium sources.

However, not everyone enjoys drinking or can tolerate milk because of lactose-intolerance or the inability to process properly the beverage. Calcium supplements may be imperative for some people.

In view of this, Gardenia has come up with its High Calcium Milk Bread. It is high in calcium and has other nutrients of milk.

Just two servings (four slices) a day help provide 50 percent of an adult's daily calcium needs.

Gardenia (tel. 8904884, www.gardenia.com.ph) High Calcium Milk Bread is available in supermarkets, groceries and convenience stores nationwide.

Is your water in school safe?

By Joel V. Mapa

Ever wonder how your kids are in here their school is school?

Schools serve as your children's second home. Aside from attending classes, they can do a lot of things there like playing with their classmates or involving themselves with school activities. During this time, they can get thirsty and drink the available water in school. Most schools have several fountain drinks. But would you let your children drink from there? Or would you rather bring the water to the school's premises.

As a parent, how sure are you that the water your little ones drink in school is safe and free from contaminants and other hazards which can cause the same?

Universities and schools should be responsible for the safety of the water for drinking and used in their campuses. Knowing that it is safe from bacteria and free from contamination later these are some disorders, stomach ache and other gastrointestinal diseases.

According to Sara Soliven de Guzman, executive vice president of O.B. Montessori Center, water safety in schools is vital as the schooling of the child. O.B. Montessori Center is one school institution that tests their water regularly to check if this is safe for use and for drinking.

"Kids that are enrolled in our school are our responsibility. That's why we want to make sure that the children here are safe in every thing they do. When we are assured that water in our school is safe, this provides us confidence that in case the kids would accidentally drink our water, we have nothing to worry about."

Sara Soliven de Guzman

O.B. Montessori Center

The O.B. Montessori Center is the pioneer in Montessori education in the Philippines. Currently, the largest Montessori school in the world, the school has a student population of almost 5,000 enrolled in its four branches in Manila, Las Piñas, Quezon City, and Angeles City, Pampanga.

The school suffers setbacks in the "Jojo Montessori episode" of in the school-induced method discovered and propagated by the great Dr. Maria Montessori, where 'most' becomes the center of education, where natural periods and developments begin and end.

The first O.B. Montessori Nursery School was organized by Ambassador Precious Soliven at the Nyada Apartments in Malate, Manila in 1968. The O.B. Montessori Grade School here opened in 1979 after Ambassador Soliven completed her MS Education course for 6 (2 year olds in Bergamo, Italy. The O.B. Montessori Preparatory High School was established in 1983, in 1995, Ms Montessori College opened upon edition for Primary and Early Childhood Montessori Education.

Teachers at the school are trained the "Montessori" way and had undergone stringent training. Every year, before being absorbed to the school academic community, O.B. Montessori Center requires the trainees to undergo training in the rural communities through the at least a hundred Pagsisimili Schools.

While its primary mission is as developed, up a new breed of Filipinos who will be leaders in varied fields such as business, politics, communications, sports or culture, the school has taken its responsibility to heart as it take good care of even the tiniest thing in the school and that includes water safety.

Qualibet

For Pinky Tolentino, founder and president of Qualibet Testing Services Inc., water safety in school is important because children spend more time there than at home." While in school, she says, the chance to be exposed with water is very high especially when the kids are playing or when they are engage in physical activities. "Knowing that our children in school takes care of their welfare by making its water safe, it would give parents confidence and peace of mind."

She adds that safety is one factor that is taken into consideration when parents choose the school for their kids. "Water safety is also a requirement of the Department of Education and the Philippine Association of Accredited Schools, Colleges and Universities (PAASCU) to get a license to operate and for accreditation. Safe drinking water in school is not a privilege but the right of every Filipino. I encourage all schools to have their water tested."

Soliven says further that third-party laboratories provide unbiased testing. "Since they are independent companies, they can conduct impartial water quality. Complacency or distribution of data, which can happen in an in-house audit, is prevented as well."

Soliven is a control person who has made it her personal advocacy to make food and water safer for all students and not a privilege for few. She is Ms. Olivia Tiffany graduate from UST and prior to establishing Qualibet, she took the Vincere President Management Course at Harvard in 2000-2001.

The company Qualibet, offers third-party testing services for water in school, offices, buildings, among other areas. The Soliven-owned company provides certified and verifiable testing facilities. A member of the American Chemical Society and Association of Analytical Chemists, the company is also the newest and locus of the most modern testing facility in the Philippines manned by 10 trained chemists, pharmacists, microbiologists and pathologists.

Third-party

Its Customer shares that even before Qualibet began testing their water, the school already conducted its own regular checks. "We have an existing lab facility and we have a staff which does this. But we have always sought the opinion of a third-party."

O.B. Montessori acquired the services of Qualibet about six months ago, says Ms Soliven. "With an independent party doing the testing, we can confidently say that our water is safe for our students and with a third-party validating it, how can we go wrong?"

She says getting the services of a third-party has a lot of benefits. "Evidence of which is we are assured that our water in the school are regularly monitored."

Having regular tests enables them to locate which areas in the school where water is safe and where it's not? Which areas in school others it's safe to drink the water and where it's not." If the water is not safe in a specific area, we can immediately take action. We can look for other possible sources of water," she says.

She adds that safety being safe does not only mean water for drinking but also water for washing of hands or the bathing as these water in the kitchen. "This is because contaminated water can also cause skin diseases."

Educator

Dr. Guzman attended the O.B. Montessori Center from pre-school to high school. She obtained her college degree from Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles and her Montessori training course in Pleasanton. She's more complex in higher Master's at IE for education and curriculum development.

Married to businessman Jun De Guzman for seven years now, she has three kids namely Maxine, 2; Mandy, 7, and, Monique, 9 decade old.

As to education, she shares, "Every school is a happy school children. If's as we loved. My mother is an educator. I also grew up in an educational institution. It's a lot of hard work but when believe in and what makes it more fulfilling and satisfying to that chance of making kids young mind."

More than anything else, Dr Guzman considers water safety in school as a serious subject. School administrators like her and parents as well should not take any liability so as not to create problems in the future.

Gigi Leonardo (left), Qualibet Testing Services Inc. quality control manager and Pinky Tolentino, Qualibet president, award the Qualibet Seal of Assurance to Sara Soliven De Guzman, OB Montessori Center chief operating officer and Miko Sta. Ana, OBMC manager. Also in photo are Sara's children Mikaela and Maxine. OBMC operates with safe water and conforms to the DOH requirements for potable water.

Kids get exposed with water while in school

Is the Water in Your School Safe and Monitored Regularly?

Responsible and committed schools and universities should have their water tested and monitored regularly by Qualibet. Water is a serious subject because it may cause amoebiasis, diarrhea and other gastrointestinal problems among the students. Always look for the seal of assurance, the seal of Qualibet. Call Gigi or Hope at 09173668711 or 09154436681 or 09218174475 for additional information. Just let us know if you would like to have your water samples picked up for testing.

A Message Of Concern From

QUALIBET TESTING SERVICES CORP.

For A Safer and Better Life

121 Sampaguita St. Project 1, Quezon City, Philippines
Tel/Fax: 374-8003 / 374-7953 Fax No.: 410-6049 • E-mail: qualibetsafety@yahoo.com
Website: www.qualibetlab.com

AT THE launch of the flamboyant Travel Line of Miladay Jewels at SM Mall of Asia are Indonesian Ambassador Imron Tondjung, Isabel Dil and singer Christian Bautista.

FAMILYMAN. Actor Eddie Romero, Carolina Romero and Joey Romero

ERACE Quiang

MILADAY couples consultant Mike Mina, Mega Bernal's Didi Pellazco, Boni Tesorio and Tanduay Tourism Promotion Board's Vernon Perez

A jewelry line for the jet-setter

EYE-CATCHING actresses Isabel Togoso, sisters Iwi Blanco and Trina Fernandez

FROM MY HOTSHOE TO LIKE PAZ, TO my sisters and their gang and today's hip, stylish women of taste, bling-bling have always been part of their accessories.

In fact, one beautiful woman loved bling-blings so much that she opened her own jewelry shop. In 1956, the vivacious Milagros Diego lit up up Miladay.

So it was not surprising that one of jewelry enthusiasts rush to Miladay on the second level of SM Mall of Asia to check out The Rendezvous Travel Line of Miladay.

This newest line of the 48-year-old jewelry store is composed of dazzling pieces inspired by the endless travels of one of the Miladay owners, sweet, witty and sparkling beauty, Christine Dayrit, dubbings.

"My Rendezvous Line is born out of my desire to create a jewelry collection that will cater to both the jewelry aficionados and those filled with wanderlust," says Christine.

The beautiful jewels arrived in full dazzling force for the launch. Angel D. Bautista-Michelle O. Sobrevinas, handsome Mark Dayrit and Yvonne D. Bautista-Diaz highlighted the Rendezvous' Sarabaya Collection, gorgeous jewelry pieces depicting the allure and mystique of East Java, Indonesia, one of Christine's favorite destinations, palanggam.

"The colors, sounds, flavor and textures of Surabaya are well-ingrained in our designs," says Christine who, by the way is also a travel writer and chair of the Cinema Evaluation Board and International Film Festival Committee, to boot, dubbings.

Spotted at the launch co-sponsored by Investour Tourism Promotion Board and sparkling Tanduya were the hottest guests of honor: the Indonesian Ambassador, professor Imron Tondjung, Dr. Ir. Christian Gunadi, Indahati Dil, gorgeous Dee Dee Padilla, Booth Francisco and adorable Berde Amoin-Bon, plus other bling-bling lovers, palanggam.

Prize tickets were raffled off like peanuts including business-class for two to Surabaya with five-star hotel accommodation, and Hot Stax Package for two at The Empire in Ibiza.

Check out @Miladay, described by Sandra's fi-ancee "a second home," which has 11 stores all over town, palanggam.

Call 8988214, 8988208 or 8987708, or visit www.miladayjewels.com.

Hip and hot

With tons of locations and store openings going on like barong, one happening hot world can miss was the glitzy "Red and Gold Party" in Greenbelt 5 at the 3rd, hot and new Tropical Room on the Square. The stylish boss words crowd enjoyed the exquisite food whipped up by 26-year-young chef de cuisine Shaq Sugar, proclaiming Iranian and superb restaurateur, palanggam.

Tropical's main ladies...chef Kat Pascual and client Bianca and Tricia Fernandez—were looking absolutely radiant, making sure every member of the beautiful crowd enjoyed every minute of his/her stay.

Another party highlight was the awesome display of skills of Tropical's talented and handsome bartender.

TALENTED OLIO. Chef Kat Pascual and Tropical's chef de cuisine Shaq Sugar

TROPEZE artistic architects Jun and Cathe Chan-ni Chan-Candelaria, Inc.

PROFFER of chef Kat P., Jun Pascual, and jazz singer Mon David

PRETTY PRETTY as a picture. Trisha Bermudez, Cassie Cabigas, Vicky de Leon and Bobbie Aguilar

ACE photographer Wig Bermoy, Abbygale Armeen de Leon and Noreen de Leon

ARMAND del Rosario, Kristian Specilyn Ison, and Jessica Klarie, Kerwan Salud

MARK Marquez, Institut country manager of L'Oreal Philippines, gives a welcome speech.

MAGALIE Wilson, Binibining Pilipinas World 2007

MILADAY GEMS. Michelle D. Salceo, Rendezvous Travel Line designer Christine Dayrit, Mark Dayrit, Jaqui G. Bonnin and Yvonne D. Bautista-Diaz

Beautiful people who were there included Miladay director Christine Dayrit, tall, elegant artist Marivic Bellosillo-Sumaoang, Figaro's Old Boss and Joaquin Jimenez, brilliant lawyers Pablo Garcia-Lopez and Dad Ramos-Gonzalez, and artist-manager Mandee Ocampo, plus so many more like them, palanggam.

Check out the hot happenings at "Tropical@Tavern on the Square on the second level of Greenbelt 3. Enjoy hot bands and yummy dining, palanggam.

Redefining opulence

There is nothing like a fabulous head of hair, dubbings. So it's no wonder that when the world-renowned Kérastase Paris launched its lush, head-turning age-defying hair products, Age Recharge, there was a wild stampede.

Dishing the launch of Kérastase's Age Recharge, six hunk lovers were also introduced, palanggam: Rissa Ortiz (mga cohosts) for Age Recharge; Jeremie de Leon Gonzales (MMS advocate/model) for Resistance; Bianca Arimento (model and new event for Reflection; Andrea Garcia (student/model) for Solell; Wilma Bernardino (interior designer) for Blanc-Noir; and Armand del Rosario (football player) for Specifique.

Over 200 beautiful people were treated to a night of pure indulgence and luxury at the new dance club Riverhouse 101, no less. Invitees were transported back to the Victorian era through an awe-inspiring exhibit of period furniture as aging Mario attributes being transformed into a young vivacious Grecourse sensual.

The event was capped by the unveiling of Icons, as seen through the lens of mega-photographer Wig Bermoy.

Among the eye-candies seen engaged cougars Dr. Raymond Rodher and Sonia Palabyab, and model-to-be Georgia Schultz del Rosario, palanggam.

Birthday bash

Although summer is almost gone, our town is refreshing from the heat and what seems to be an endless stream of happenings, palanggam. One in particular had the partying pack pointing the same way. Publicist Philip Monfalcon, together with birthday pals mega model Klara Mamaquid-Samaco and television host Jill Rodriguez, celebrated his birthday at the popular Fiamma. With fab sounds and the house endlessly flowing, invitees deviated, danced and rocked the place, dubbings.

Eye-catching soiree stealers included one-of-a-kind Celine Lopez; Mandy dela Rama-Sanchez; gorgeous Amanda Griffin; Mega editor and fashionable head-turner Carla Abad, both sparkling-eyed; Shamla Mahtani; Fruitlets' Ramona Capuno; hunk Marc Nelson; Nomads Club Concepcion-brothers; Mozart and Camille Aglugub, plus so many others like them, dubbings.

Fiamma's handsome owner Sheik Tillio was here, there and everywhere, endlessly entertaining with his lady love Rissa Mil., natch, palanggam.

SERALDINE Ocier

LILI Jalca

SUPREME Court justice Consuelo Santiago

BY AND Angeli Ong

YNEL Reinaldez

MORNING'S Czar Concepcion-Barbers

BACARDI'S Geneviene Martinez

BIRTHDAY PALS. Philip Monfalcon and gorgeous top model and writer Rissa Mamaquid

TALENTED Leanna Lee Cruzado and Brain Tissue's general manager L'Oreal Pro

BUSINESSMAN Andy Soler and mega photographer Rogers Jacinto

FASHION TV's Kat Rodgomez and Sunday INQUIRER Magazine publisher Lala Cojuangco

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Ernesto C. Velarde

Website: www.inquirer.net/entertainment

Yeng: I'm not 'kikay,' never was 'maldita'

By Marinell R. Cruz

YENG CONSTANTINO, GMA7 WINNER of the reality-based talent search "Pinoy Dream Academy" admitted there were some misunderstandings between her and the four contestants expelled for bad behavior.

Jan 6 Siobe, Sheke Trinidad, Chad Arcalas and Mish Pallorina were sanctioned by Dream Big Productions for behaving badly while they were in the Global Teens for a concert tour. There were no complaints about Yeng and third-placer Ronnie Liang.

In searching for the reason management axed all ABS-CBN talent to oversee the contest, edwin Tapol.

"Nagkompetisyon kami. Di talaga sa umpisa," Yeng told entertainment writers at a press conference for "Sook Syrup," her first major concert, "But we sat down and discussed the problem. We're okay now."

She added: "Someone said I should get used to controversies now that I'm in the industry. Naughtiness talaga ang akma ko."

What is your reaction to rumors that you're snobbish and ungrateful to your fans?

I don't think about [illegible] too much. But I don't remember being snobbish to anyone. Whenever I have the honor my manager is that thinking with the fans is part of the job. When people ask to have their pictures taken with me, I indulge them.

Despite that was a little too boyish. Is that the image you want?

I was never a tomboy. Any talaga ako. I have more male than female friends.

After 'Boomerang' (the version of Yeng's concert) is finge, this you sure you can fill it up?

I'm nervous. This is one of the most important events in my life. It's my first time to have a major concert, I don't know what to say pero... If I'm able to fill at least half of Aliw, I'd be really happy.

TAKE FIVE

Who are your greatest influences in music?

Aiken (ay ayt look up to Persons in Filipino The Homebrands was already established when I started being interested in music. I also love listening to the Itchyworms, Bamboo, Rivermaya and a number of foreign groups each bands.

Did you ever imagine performing with any of them?

My band, Morning Glory, opened for Rivermaya once. the last was at the SF Bar in Febru... Bro's Birth Day in the drummer.

Paul Bueno is the guitarist and [illegible] Gomez is the bassist.

What was your bandmates' reaction to your going solo for "Yeng"?

They felt bad at first. But I assured them this was just a short engagement, that I love the band and would never

YENGISH

BF to MMFF producers: Protest–but be polite

Star Cinema entry makes it, in spite of last year's controversy

By Rayvel San Diego Jr.

BAYANI FERNANDO

BE WELCOME CONTROVERSIES AND criticisms for as long as these are within the bounds of fair play—not below the belt," said Bayani Fernando during last week's launch of the 33rd Metro Manila Film Festival at the Mark Pitch Golf and Country Club.

Fernando, chair of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority which spearheads the film fest, later explained what he meant to reporters (boomerang): in a phone interview. "If producers have questions about the film fest, they are free to express them others...even to protest if needed. But let us not disregard rules of civility. Let us be polite and professional."

Only last year

Last year, controversy broke after that Cinema premiered the Best Picture results. "Enteng Kabisote 3" won over Star's entry, "Kasal, Kasali, Kasalo." By the end of the festival, "Kasal" had only garnered "Enteng."

In spite of the intrigues, Star finished seventh entry this year...the "Kasal" sequel, "Sakal, Sakali, Sakalo," again "top billed by real-life couple Judy Ann Santos and Ryan Agoncillo.

Bo Cornejo, [illegible] executive committee member, told the reporter, "In my discussions with the chair, he made clear his position. Us has nothing against Star Cinema or any producer. He just hopes that people will make amends for what happened last year."

Cornejo noted: Despite the enmity generated by last year's protests, star Cinema's

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www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

GALLERIA

1 OCEAN'S 13 • THX
2 OCEAN'S 13
3 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
4 SHREK 3
5 MEET the ROBINSONS
6 BORDERTOWN
7 SILIP
8 IndieSine: Love Hotsonic
9 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
10 PAANO KITA IBIGIN?

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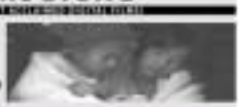

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2 SHREK 3
MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
3 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
4 SILIP
5 MEET the ROBINSONS
6 PAANO KITA IBIGIN?
7 BORDERTOWN

METRO EAST

1 SHREK 3
2 PAANO KITA IBIGIN?
3 MEET the ROBINSONS
4 BORDERTOWN
5 SILIP
6 OCEAN'S 13
7 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
8 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY

NOVALICHES

1 OCEAN'S 13
2 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
3 PAANO KITA IBIGIN?
4 SILIP
5 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
6 MEET the ROBINSONS

PIONEER

1 BORDERTOWN
2 OCEAN'S 13
3 MEET the ROBINSONS
4 PAANO KITA IBIGIN?

STA. ROSA

1 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
2 OCEAN'S 13
3 MEET the ROBINSONS
4 SILIP
5 PAANO KITA IBIGIN?

LIPA

1 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
2 PAANO KITA IBIGIN?
3 MEET the ROBINSONS
4 SILIP
5 LUCKY YOU

DASMARIÑAS

1 28 WEEKS LATER
2 MEET the ROBINSONS
3 SILIP
4 OCEAN'S 13
5 PAANO KITA IBIGIN?

ANGELES

1 OCEAN'S 13
2 MEET the ROBINSONS
3 SILIP
4 PAANO KITA IBIGIN?

IMUS

1 OCEAN'S 13
2 PAANO KITA IBIGIN?
3 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
4 MEET the ROBINSONS
5 SILIP
6 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY

STARMILLS

1 MEET the ROBINSONS
2 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
3 PAANO KITA IBIGIN?
4 SILIP
5 OCEAN'S 13
6 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY

BACOLOD

1 OCEAN'S 13
2 MEET the ROBINSONS
3 PAANO KITA IBIGIN?
4 RESERVE
5 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
6 SILIP

ILOILO

1 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
2 PAANO KITA IBIGIN?
3 MEET the ROBINSONS
4 OCEAN'S 13
5 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
6 FIREHOUSE DOG

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

BF to MMFF . . .

MC CAPAGUIGAN

The goal is all

"The movies show how we handle things in the MMFF," Fermin explained.

"All adhered to the rules," Comelligan pointed out.

Rolando reiterated that entry "Sakal" made it to the first batch of six entries, along with Director Jeanny Bravo-Jaime "Ito Kahoon 4," with Tu Sotto and Kristine Hermosa, Regal's horror series "Shake, Rattle & Roll X," with Maricel Soriano and Rudy Agoncillo, Jesse Ejercito's action-film "Rudy," Bembol Roco's "Bong" Revilla Jr.-MAQ's family drama "Babae Ako," with Sharmaine Arnaiz and Mercedes Cabral, and Mercedes OPM saga "Kung Ang Wala" with Rosanna Roces and Lorna Tolentino.

The good is all

"The movies show how we handle things in the MMFF," Fermin explained.

"All adhered to the rules," Comelligan pointed out.

Rolando reiterated that entry "Sakal" made it to the first batch of six entries, along with Director Jeanny Bravo-Jaime "Ito Kahoon 4," with Tu Sotto and Kristine Hermosa, Regal's horror series "Shake, Rattle & Roll X," with Maricel Soriano and Rudy Agoncillo, Jesse Ejercito's action-film "Rudy," Bembol Roco's "Bong" Revilla Jr.-MAQ's family drama "Babae Ako," with Sharmaine Arnaiz and Mercedes Cabral, and Mercedes OPM saga "Kung Ang Wala" with Rosanna Roces and Lorna Tolentino.

Jazz for the Senses, a festival in Manila

THE 5TH MANILA JAZZ FESTival takes place on June 23 at the Grand Ballet Pavilion of the Solaire Philippine Plaza Hotel.

The concert's three jazz musical performances will showcase the rising French trio, Thomas Enhco and the Jazz Angels.

Also performing are: Kris Tolentino and the MF Project (vocal garde), Mike Guevarra and Symphony (modern jazz), Mat Ellicio and Nonoi Pamilar of the Jazz Volunteers (modern jazz), Wonny Gruezy and the Embajo Band featuring Camille Johnston (jazz beats/ world music), Redbreather Saga Project (funk / spoken word), Michael Young and the Pendolistas with Ms. Cynthia Alexander (jazz fusion), the UP Jazz Ensemble (big band), the UST Jazz Band (big band), Nino Mikel Olano / soul), Sean Mankayo (mang / be bop), hip, hip, rockey trumpet and vibraphone player Popoy Solmoron and the Jazzsters' Jazz Band (instrumental jazz / New Orleans jazz).

Admission is free. Call 840-0238 or e-mail mackeray@yes-

shows.com.

Kundirana '07

Kundirana '07 returns to open La Salle Greenhills' 50th anniversary celebrations.

The two-time Aliw Awardee for Best Original Group recently returned from a concert tour of over California.

Last Saturday at the Rex Isabel Donato Arts Center Theater at La Salle Greenhills, Kundirana '07 reprised its Amadeus concert production, entitled "Pinctanation." On Friday, June 15 at 7:30 p.m., the group joins other Kundirana alumni batches (1971 to 2006) at the anniversary celebrations.

For tickets, call/text 725-8914.

One La Salle

Lasallian artists perform in the concert "We Are One" on June 22 at the St. Benilde Gym of La Salle Greenhills, San Juan.

The concert stars Gary Valenciano, Ogie Alcasid, Randy Santiago, Ronnie Santiago, Jon Avelgan, Mojoe Aceyuna, Nina Jugi, and Kirsha Fadul—all Lasallians.

"We Are One" is the kick-off event for the One La salle campaign, organized by De La Salle Philippines (DLSP).

Call 526-4614, look for Jerry Padilla or Nonie Flores.

Musical theater

With Anger and Tweepers Playshop's production of the hit Disney teen musical "High School Musical" this month and next at the Mendiola Theater, Isabe lenioors introduces the freshest batch of of local musical theater actors—Sam Concepcion, Chesca Ortega, Alex Gonzaga, and RJ Ablan, plus almost 50 of the most promising young performers in the country.

Call Tiketworld, 891-999, or Smges, 810-1111 local 209 or 233.

June 12

Duke Addamo at SJTV Sm Bel-Air, Makati. Call 899-1650.

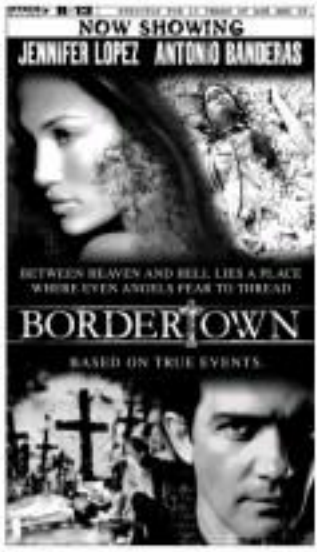
Antiba and the Soulful Out Band at Mody's Bar Roxas, Greenbelt 3

June 13

Deal Toledo and Gabby Granchal at SJTV Sm Bel-Air, Makati. Call 899-1650.

Eddie K, Rony Pestaño, Reggie Herrera, Popoy Salmoran, Mar Elacio, Bo Rasay, JJ Castañeda, Alvin Carreon and Richard Mark at Mody's Bar Roxas, Greenbelt 3

ALIVE! Gamaruddin star cast of the local version of "High School Musical"



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It just looks like a friendly smack

Mandaluyong LAWBAN Golf Cup held last June 5 at Tagaytay Midlands for the benefit of the families of slain lawyers/judges Bañez to ABSA president Benny Antiporda and the newly

born. Your concern for your colleagues as one acts as balm to our

This is not late. I'm still celebrating your birthday and all the wonderful

things you are to me all year round. Happy birthday!

For one who doesn't usually run out of words, I am suddenly speechless with gratitude. My profuse thanks to all my readers from all over the globe, friends, colleagues and family for helping me turn this unbearable three past days. Today be my Independence Day. Yey, I am indeed relieved that the 2K2TM has at last been!

Allow me to share Leo Babaguit's e-mail. Some titles might be for special groups:

Hi, Bella!

Share ko lang what it is, you don't and can't really have it a lot of what's going once solely for the purpose of getting public for us to really succeed. Some of us singers are all part of the phenomenon, and I guess we all have to live with it.

Then again, I usually don't do my words and go home, letting my work speak for itself. It doesn't gain me a lot of friends, for it does get me enraged.

At the end of the day, that's what matters as far as show business is concerned, and that's what I respect in the artists that have survived the long with impeccable track records and portfolios of incredible performances.

Hang in there... I know that deep down, you love the business, in spite of the occasional spike of negativity. Just note that Pinoys have very short memories. It's easy to forget.

Leo

E-mail: [redacted]

Yeng: I'm not 'kikay,' never...

What is your long-term goal?

To stay in this business for as long as I can. I also dream of opening a music studio and owning it one day. Maybe, I'll go to other artists, my own is a good work. I hope to help new upcoming talents, too.

Other Kapamilya artists like Sarah Geronimo, Kim Chiu and Jason Francisco, they're also going back to school. What about you?

I just finished high school and plan go back to school. But I'm busy with work right now. Problem is I don't like home schooling. I like being surrounded by other students.

Would you like to try singing in other genres?

Rock music is my favorite. I would love to sing in a rock band. I also like performing R&B. In other subjects, because I'm good at it.

Back to school. Yeng's Back to School (Back to School) Concert will be held on June 25 at the Arlet Theater in Roxas City.

ComicRelief

e-mail: [redacted]

GARFIELD — BY JIM DAVIS

A. LUPIN — BY JESS NIEVA

BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT

PUGAD BABOY — BY PH JUNIOR

NUTS — BY PATRICK MCDONNELL

LOVEHKOTS — BY ELIZABETH CHONGLO

KYOKO AND WOODY — BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY — BY STEVEN MANALANSAN

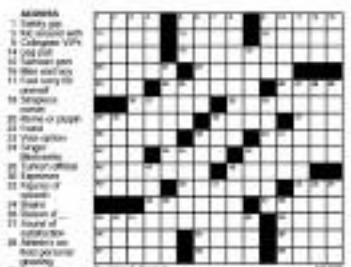
KIKO MACHINE — BY TOTO ABRERA

MAKABUDDHOS — BY JOMAR TEJIDO

TULDOK — BY PAPU AND TATUH HUARIBUNG

BEN — BY DENNIS SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD



HOROSCOPE

YOU WERE BORN today to be optimistic. You're generous and cheerful, even sensitive and quite sincere when it comes to you. You like to be active and you appreciate time to travel, because you have much energy for this, you enjoy your own company and you're quite comfortable with yourself. You're involved with friends past many years might and in order to make room for something new.

BIRTHDAYS of Mikhail Gorbachev, poet Robert Frost, actress Ingrid Bergman, supermodel Tim Gunn, actor Tim Allen, and actress Lena Headey.

ARIES (March 21 to April 20). Financial obligations, associations with children and the start of an interesting creative endeavor are in the cards. Your willingness to be spontaneous might be a constant for you today. It's clear, but it's there.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 21). Romantic encounters with parents or older family members are highlighted today. Financial responsibilities might demand your careful notice. Someone might be trying to win favor for this person. It's a big deal.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20). Socializing with friends and social events that put focus and self-confidence on the forefront get caught up in negative behavior. Someone is manipulative. Romantic encounters are not meant to last. This happens to be more of a friendship than a romance.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22). A financial collaboration may might be a bit shaky. Disappointing, or even worse, do not invest in this. This happens to be more of a friendship than a romance.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22). Socialization with parents, teachers, authority figures and figures might be stressful and frustrating today. Romantic encounters are not meant to last. Someone might be trying to win favor for this person. It was one time.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22). When it comes to socialization or consulting to do with educations, conferences, publishing or the media, you might run into your growth today. Be sure to review contracts. Don't sweat the small stuff.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22). Social, fun or dinner financial obligations and responsibilities might be a bit taxed today. Something you were counting on might not be there. Romantic things look better.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21). Career opportunities and issues are highlighted today. Someone might want to show down your ideas. Use a persuasive, well-reasoned method. Nobody likes.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21). Focus is put on you today. Be sure to be the best you can be in the eyes of what is one very accomplished situation is at hand. You have up the ante.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19). Romantic might be in the limelight today. Be sure to be the best you can be in the eyes of what might be required. Don't be afraid to ask for help. Collaboration is a must today.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 19). Socialization with parents, teachers, authority figures and figures might still manifest today. Be sure to be the best you can be in the eyes of what is required. Don't be afraid to ask for help. Collaboration is a must today.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to March 20). Don't waste time worrying today. Don't try to do anything that you don't want to do. Be sure to be the best you can be in the eyes of what is required. Don't be afraid to ask for help. Collaboration is a must today.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku — by Dave Green

	2	1						
		9			2			3
				7	3		2	5
	1	7	6		8			
		5		1		8		
			5		7	6	4	
1	4		2	5				
7			9			2		
						1	6	

Difficulty Level ★★

HOW TO PLAY SUDOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answers to previous puzzle

8	4	7	9	1	2	3	5	6
2	1	5	6	4	3	9	8	7
5	9	3	8	7	5	1	4	2
3	2	6	4	9	7	8	1	5
4	7	8	5	6	1	2	9	3
9	5	1	3	2	8	6	7	4
1	3	2	7	5	9	4	6	8
6	8	9	2	8	4	7	3	1
7	8	4	1	3	6	5	2	9

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It just looks like a friendly smack

DOLLY WOOD
Daily Aztec Correspondent

HAVING GROWN UP IN SHOW BIZ, I'm check-proof. When I see on the Net a pic of Gretchen Barretto and John Estrada living Unwed! surprised.

I noted Gretz and John for the real score but as years pass they have not sighted. It could have been just a friendly smack, a friendship kiss a generation thing.

I remember John Lloyd Kramer Reeves, son of the blue-savage-fanboy the Bench fashion show. John is unattached and a free spirit who carries love.

Gretz Solomon's Tots, we exchanged sweet messages about the pain that comes with loss. Philippe John is just having fun with all the wrong ones until the right one comes along.

Happy ex-BF

A common friend of Patty Revilla's and mine told me that Patty is happy for her ex, JV Ejercito, and his wife Cheby. The expert model had the fun fun summer keeping track for the sake of their 7-year-old love child, Emilio. He was a ring bearer at his dad's wedding.

Patty herself is engaged to Jun Asuncion, Jimmy. He proposed in Boo's last year 8. JV has met Jimmy. All's well that ends well.

They really comes a time to overcome's life when one kind of love gives way to another.

'Bading' bonding

I got a kick out of listening to my gay son KC's stories about his night outs. He has declared me as the best-connected party girl. His newfound friend is Reckless Pinklia. They enjoy bading bonding to the max!

"Good thing nagkaiba ang oras naming umuwi. Kung sabay kami, I like Barcenona," KC naughtily says. Dated: Nakuna, Inutacknowis, hint!

20th anniversary

I used to hang out with Judy Ann Santos when she still owned Rhinestyles. She is so down-to-earth humble.

She's celebrating two fruitful decades in the biz via a special show at the Big Dome on June 15, 6 p.m., "Buhay ng Buhay Ito: 20 Years of Judy Ann Santos" and her much-awaited comeback on TV on the new sitcom-ver "Kaibigan." She will be joined by her celeb friends, except for Piolo Pascual.

Not too long ago, Piolo and Judy's beau Ryan Agoncillo had a word war which hasn't been resolved till now. Judy-Ann's first anniversary show is not the proper venue for them to patch things up.

Why force the issue? If they want it badly enough to happen, it will— in due time.

New pair

Prince Eawhan and Lovelyrose have topped in the new endeavors of Mark Bautista. Bad PR? Pr pioneers and the "Starstruck" winner are an item. They are both so pleasant, and special around them are always a thrill.

Will they fall for each other and start seeing their heart on their sleeve?

Ditching Mimi

Avid listeners of "Good Times" on 89.9 FM may well know that Andi 9 has long left the show, with the controversial Mimi Tanber taking her place. But nobody knows the real reason that Andi 9 left in the first place.

Mimi has been getting a lot of flak from the latch, leading to an on-air fight that made her cry on the air.

Is Mr. dubbo truly using Mimi out of the door to pave the way for Andi 9's return? Could be, and Andi 9 is an item, hmm. He's more to this than meets the eye!

Personal

Special thanks to all the sponsors and supporters of the 1st Alyssa ng Filipinong

PART II